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Shevardnadze Says Abkhaz Situation 'Grave'

Georgian State Council Chairman Shevardnadze described the current situation in Abkhazia as "grave," according to ITAR-TASS. The crime rate in the republic "has soared," and the military commandant of Sukhumi has been "forced to order troops to shoot looters on the spot." Shevardnadze stressed that "if the rampage of crime in Abkhazia is not checked in time, all efforts to stabilise the situation in the autonomous republic will fail." INTERFAX reports that the Georgian State Council passed a decree on 20 August on "urgent measures to restore order in Abkhazia."

Estonian Foreign Ministry Sends Russia Protest Note

ITAR-TASS reports that "The Estonian Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry saying that Russian non-recognition of the lawful Russian-Estonian state border is a disrespect of the Estonian territorial integrity and advancing of territorial claims." This was in response to a prior statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry, which claimed that the "Estonian Constitution which defines the land borders of the republic on the basis of the Tartu peace treaty is a one-sided legislative act which is completely ungrounded both in its historical and legal aspects." The note called the Russian statement "a rude interference into the internal affairs of Estonia."

Russia Signs Trade Agreement With Cuba

According to an article published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on 20 August, the Russian Government "has approved an intergovernmental agreement with Cuba on trade and economic cooperation" which will replace the "provisions of the Soviet-Cuban agreements regulating these matters." According to this agreement, "the sides agree to grant one another most favored nation status in trade and economic ties as well as on all questions of civil navigation," the paper reports.

Russia To Pay Canada in Hopes of Getting Grain

After Canada announced on 17 August that "grain shipments would be ended due to Russia's failure to meet its financial obligations," the Russian Finance Ministry passed a resolution on 20 August "to eliminate part of its debt on Canadian grain shipments," Oleg Klimov, president of the joint stock foreign trade company Exportkhleb told INTERFAX.

Leaders Commemorate Coup Anniversary at Rally

Russian TV reported a speech by acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar at a rally yesterday devoted to the anniversary of the 1991 August coup events at the Russian White House in Moscow. In it Gaydar stated: "Perhaps I have a better idea than many of how great is the strength of those who sincerely wish for the defeat of Russian democracy, of Russian reforms, of how our attempts to change society dissolve into thin air, of the resistance that our efforts to deepen the reform are coming up against." He expressed the view that "the most important result of this year" is that the coupists "failed to realize that the people are much more clever than they think." Gaydar added: "I am absolutely convinced that no matter how we are divided over discussions on the current economic problems, the crux of the matter lies not in these divisions today! There is one thing that is important—reform."

Gennadiy Burbulis, deputy chairman of the government, told the same rally that the country "will cope with our problems, and we will prove that the Russian people are worthy of their worthy history." He assured them that: "All those to whom you have now entrusted the reins of power and administration synchronize their actions every day, every hour, every minute, with your moods, with your aspirations, with your wishes." He concluded by inviting "our opponents and adversaries" "to cooperate with us, to work together with us."

Impact of Nuclear Force Ceilings Questioned

PM2008113592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 3

[Article by Candidate of Technical Sciences P. Belov: "Missiles in SDI Sauce: Will We See the Day When Our Parliament Gives Bush a Standing Ovation?"]

[Text] Various opinions have been expressed to date on the preliminary accord between the Russian and U.S. presidents on strategic arms reduction.

Without a doubt, a breakthrough has been achieved in reducing the means of mass destruction. Undoubtedly this is the dawn of a new era in the two countries' mutual relations. This may be called a "breakthrough in American thinking," and with good reason the U.S. Congress gave B. Yeltsin 11 standing ovations!

Nevertheless, something alarms me, perhaps because my whole life has been bound up with strategic arms. My experience of life and work prevents me from seeing the disarmament process as exclusively "lyrical."

A country's nuclear arsenal must be neither too large nor too small: If it is too large there is the threat of total annihilation; if too small, a potential aggressor may go unpunished. The recent agreements, it may be expected, will save the planet from the first scenario but represent the second to the United States.

If the accords reached by Yeltsin and Bush are ratified, the level of confrontation will fall in comparison with the 1991 treaty from a correlation of 5,000-5,978 to 3,000-3,492 Russian and U.S. warheads respectively. In this process, the greatest reductions in Russia will affect the Strategic Rocket Troops, and 4,000 of the highest yield SS-18 and SS-24 missiles deployed in silos will be scrapped. The analogous correlations for warheads on planes and ships are 800-1,264 and 1,750-1,728.

Now for an impartial analysis of the situation regarding nuclear weapons in the Air Force, the Navy, and the Strategic Rocket Troops.

The Air Force. On the combat potential of heavy bombers I stress that we currently lag behind in quantity by 3.5 times; under the 1991 treaty the figure will be 2.36 times; but under the recent agreements it will be 1.5 times. The calculation applied to the U.S. arms was unfortunate—for some reason we agreed to count everything except long-range missiles as a single nuclear warhead, ignoring the numerous short-range missiles and bombs carried by U.S. B-2 and B-52 bombers. Bearing in mind our lag in guidance, detection, and radioelectronic countermeasures systems, the loss in the combat potential of strategic components of the Air Force clearly runs to several orders of magnitude.

Let us note that the lack of comparability between air force potentials was compensated for previously by the fact that United States "allowed" us to keep one-half of the SS-18 grouping (1,540 very large warheads in hardened silos) and also to increase the number of nuclear warheads on mobile ground-based ICBM's to 1,100. That, incidentally, "canceled out" the U.S. superiority at sea.

The Navy. The United States has a considerable superiority in the number of sea-launched nuclear warheads and in 1991 intended to retain a ratio of 3,456 to 1,960. It was proposed to maintain that situation in the first stage of the latest accords, too—as "recompense" for the 65 SS-18 missiles remaining at that time—whereas in the second stage the ratio is virtually equalized. However, this does not imply that the navies have equal combat potential.

In the specialists' opinion the real correlation of forces at sea just three years ago was 1:12, with a ratio of 1:8 in submarines. It is estimated that in the event of hostilities even using conventional weapons lasting eight to nine days the sides' losses would be as follows: Our navy—around 88 percent (complete catastrophe), the U.S. Navy around 13 percent (it would retain its combat capability).

The picture regarding safety at sea is not much better. A large proportion of the nuclear reactors now resting on the bottom of the world's oceans (about 10) and a large protion of the 50 or more warheads there are ours.

Ground-based ICBM's. The radical difference in the recent accords was the renunciation of heavy delivery vehicles with multiple warheads. The Americans' ancient dream of eliminating our SS-18, which they dubbed "the Satan," will possibly soon be realized.

The Americans believe that the SS-18 is the only system ensuring an "asymmetrical response" even when they have SDI, elements of which are currently being developed. According to their estimates, 100 SS-18s are capable of launching into orbit not only 1,000 real warheads but also 100,000 dummy targets. That figure is already beyond the capability of SDI in its simplified version, which is designed for just 200 nuclear warheads at present. When there are three times as many SS-18's as there are now, and if you adapt Stealth technology or "aerosol casings" [aerozolnyye obertki] to their real and dummy warheads, SDI becomes nothing more than a morale-boosting device to reassure the U.S. population.

Is this not the real reason for the possible U.S. attempts to "remove" the CIS' SS-24 silo-based missiles, presently stationed in Ukraine, and "persuade" Kazakhstan to scrap the "hundred or so" SS-18's left on its territory?

What does Russia keep in exchange for the SS-18? Some non-heavy [netyazhelyy] missiles with single warheads in silos as well as mobile ground-based ICBM's which have no equivalent in the world? If this is the latest form of "asymmetry" to equalize the potentials, why did the United States not try to eliminate it before?

Let us look at the prerequisites of the ground-mobile means of basing missiles. The idea of stationing missiles on mobile railroad and truck frames emerged about 20 years ago and was intensively researched in the United States when the means of stationing Minuteman and later MX missiles was being chosen.

These developments were widely publicized by the Americans and did not go unnoticed in the USSR. The U.S. "publicity" proved to be wasteful and disastrous disinformation for us. We deployed around 1,400 missiles in silos and almost 1,000 SS-20's and SS-25's plus several dozen SS-24's on railroad platforms at a cost of many trillions of rubles.

This "disinformation" was disastrous because the mobile complexes that now exist seem to have made Russia their hostage and, like the Chernobyl-style RBMK-1000 reactors, are a "time bomb." I think that the SS-24 and SS-25 missile systems are more dangerous to us than to the enemy: They are more susceptible to accidents and sabotage with disastrous consequences.

You can explain and even understand the dogged silence of our country's military-industrial complex on this matter. The "fathers" of the mobile complexes are fond of saying that "even a cup of hot tea is dangerous" and "a single SS-24 will 'attract' up to 300 U.S. nuclear warheads." So how is one supposed to understand the scientists from the Institute of the United States of America and Canada who propose continuing their deployment and increasing their number to 600-700 by the year 2000?

Questions, questions...

Two more questions—among the most important. On the timetable for the reduction of strategic arms and the need to review the 1972 ABM Treaty. We are being told today that by the end of the millennium 15-20 countries will possess nuclear weapons and the threat not only to the United States but to Russia, too, will increase. Therefore, let us revoke the treaty and create a joint "umbrella," remove the COCOM restrictions, and use our technologies to get rich. Tempting, isn't it? But where is the guarantee that the umbrella is meant for two? After all, the United States has already paid two-thirds of the cost.

The high speed of strategic arms reduction presupposes a similar speed in their destruction. A conventional charge in a nuclear warhead becomes very unpredictable as it gets older. So to the 8,000 tactical nuclear warheads you must add approximately the same number of strategic ones. There are just three plants for dismantling them, each with a capacity of 1,500 nuclear warheads a year. The costs here are enormous, and so far hardly any resources have been allocated. A national program is needed to ensure the safety and burial of fissionable waste, first and foremost plutonium, but so far there has been a lot of talk, but no programs or techniques for disposing of the plutonium.

I do not tend to view the Washington accords as B. Yeltsin's error. As a politician he said what he had to say with due weight and professionalism, in my view. Now it is up to the other professionals but not the politicians. It is the job of the specialists and experts to conduct the skilled "de facto" research and up to the Supreme Soviet to finalize "de jure" the question of reducing our strategic forces.

As a specialist and expert I can attest that the increase in the number of ground-mobile launchers envisaged by the accords "undermines" peace even more and threatens Russia with unfavorable consequences in the event of the unilateral reduction of the SS-18 and SS-24 silo-based missiles, which are comparatively safe in exploitation, but we have not matured enough for such a "priority" basing mode; it will destroy us if we try to transport nuclear warheads using our crumbling railroad track and worn-out roads.

If the silo-based SS-18's and SS-24's are replaced by mobile SS-24's and SS-25's, the pursuit of policy from a position of strength and its related blackmail of the weak and the temptation to try to act with impunity could become a reality, especially since our president has promised not to go to war with the United States. It is not so long since the United States said that there are things more important than peace. What would happen if the zone of U.S. national interests suddenly included Kolyma or Tyumen, for example? And what could Russia do if that happened? After all, it is sitting on a "powder keg." Any localized conflict using highly accurate conventional weapons would quickly bring that to mind. You cannot rush despairingly to the nuclear button; it will not bring the aggressor to his senses because he is sheltering under the SDI "umbrella." In hopeless situations people do not predict the consequences of their actions very well, and this poses a threat to the whole world.

The parliamentary discussion of the problem of arms reduction is an apt place to assess the actual need for the adoption of bilateral rather than unilateral decisions. The phrases "catch up" and "overtake" are no longer appropriate. What have parities in the scrupulous counting of missiles got to do with that? You can survive if you do not overtax yourself once and for all. Other states—France, Britain, and China—live without parity, using common sense.

CIS Foreign Trade Statistics Jan-Mar 1992

OW1608074292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1822 GMT 13 Aug 92

["Statistical Data" section of the regular weekly "Trade & Investment" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **FOREIGN TRADE PARTNERS OF CIS COUNTRIES**

According to the estimates of the Statistical Committee export of Commonwealth countries during the first half of 1992 was $18.8 bn [billion] and import - $19.9 bn. Volume of last year export-import operations compared with the appropriate period of time this year was a third as less. Foreign trade balance deficit within the past half year was $1.1 bn.

CIS COUNTRIES' FOREIGN TRADE, JANUARY-MARCH 1992

	Exports	Imports	Balance
Belarus ('000 convertible rubles)			
Total volume	8411663	2773270	5638393
Austria	673329	301935	371394
Afghanistan	168397	44088	124309
Belgium	240116	3717	236399
Bulgaria	73949	129742	-55793
Brazil	93383	-	93383
Great Britain	68418	29257	39161
Hungary	13013	97828	-84815
Venezuela	158098	-	158098
Guatemala	114342	-	114342
Greece	1814	35	1779
Denmark	2175	-	2175
Egypt	3112	1044	2068
Iran	159766	-	159766
Spain	2387	-	2387
Italy	468340	69340	399000
Canada	1549	148	1401
Singapore	2884	23166	-20282
USA	134996	19053	115943
Taiwan	988296	-	988296
Tunisia	2562	-	2562
Turkey	265624	795	264829
Finland	248094	2955	245139
France	139771	12435	127336
Germany	374711	432951	-58240
Czechoslovakia	146462	27135	119327
Chile	120720	-	120720
Switzerland	529826	238291	291535
Sweden	3729	6925	-3196
Yugoslavia	119205	160219	-41014
Japan	1824	23548	-21724
Kazakhstan ('000 convertible rubles)			
Total volume	183398	119705	63693
Austria	-	3027	-3027
Afghanistan	218	1537	-1319
Belgium	685	67	618
Bulgaria	7661	731	6930
Great Britain	17553	296	17257
Hungary	1867	30757	-28890
Hong Kong	261	397	-136
Denmark	497	-	497
Spain	613	-	613
Italy	-	622	-622
Canada	-	1604	-1604
Cyprus	26467	-	26467
China	48543	44891	3652
North Korea	295	-	295
Luxembourg	15192	-	15192
Mongolia	-	329	-329
Poland	8774	316	8458
South Korea	770	-	770
USA	10883	-	10883
Turkey	2247	-	2247
Germany	7019	7548	-529
Finland	7120	9902	-2782
France	6649	137	6512
Czechoslovakia	345	511	-166
Switzerland	1035	-	1035
Sweden	19806	-	19806
Yugoslavia	1698	16494	-14796
Japan	-	539	-539
Russia (mn [million] dollars)			
Total volume	7496.2	9039.9	-1543.7
Austria	130.8	250.8	-120.0
Algeria	14.7	125.4	-110.7
Argentina	11.7	17.1	-5.4
Afghanistan	43.5	33.2	10.3
Belgium	200.9	44.4	156.5
Brazil	22.2	8.0	14.2
Bulgaria	263.9	143.2	120.7
Great Britain	337.2	117.0	220.2

	Exports	Imports	Balance
Hungary	299.0	277.9	21.1
Vietnam	26.8	27.4	-0.6
Egypt	83.7	74.1	9.6
India	191.1	306.7	-115.6
Iran	70.5	14.1	56.4
Spain	33.4	168.0	-134.6
Italy	453.4	593.6	-140.2
Canada	11.5	327.3	-315.8
Cyprus	35.1	11.3	23.8
China	281.1	264.9	16.2
North Korea	54.8	12.7	42.1
Cuba	108.0	90.0	18.0
Libya	63.8	0.6	63.2
Mongolia	38.5	9.6	28.9
Netherlands	375.3	120.6	254.7
Norway	31.1	10.6	20.5
Pakistan	25.4	10.8	14.6
Poland	308.8	327.9	-19.1
South Korea	47.3	274.6	-227.3
Romania	90.4	241.5	-151.1
USA	143.1	1029.8	-886.7
Turkey	149.9	114.2	35.7
Finland	215.3	127.8	87.5
France	369.0	245.6	123.4
Germany	1115.2	2288.8	-1173.6
Czechoslovakia	647.3	303.3	344.0
Switzerland	112.2	120.3	-8.1
Sweden	140.6	121.8	18.8
Yugoslavia	197.1	206.8	-9.7
Japan	224.4	317.8	-93.4
Turkmenistan ('000 convertible rubles)			
Total volume	2647	1883	764
Austria	483	-	483
Afghanistan	1673	1264	409
India	176	222	-46
Iran	30	-	30
China	39	101	-62
Germany	246	296	-50
Uzbekistan (mn dollars)			
Total volume	112.0	59.4	52.6
Austria	8.5	6.3	2.2
Afghanistan	3.8	0.6	3.2
Belgium	41.0	-	41.0
Bulgaria	1.9	0.1	1.8
Great Britain	4.8	0.2	4.6
Vietnam	0.9	-	0.9
Greece	0.06	-	0.06
Indonesia	1.3	-	1.3
Spain	1.8	-	1.8
Italy	1.1	-	1.1
China	7.4	17.1	-9.7
North Korea	0.2	0.8	-0.6
Libya	1.7	-	1.7
Pakistan	0.2	0.1	0.1
Poland	2.9	-	2.9
South Korea	0.2	-	0.2
Singapore	-	0.2	-0.2
USA	7.7	0.5	7.2
Turkey	-	0.03	0.03
Germany	6.6	1.3	5.3
France	7.4	-	7.4
Czechoslovakia	1.3	-	1.3
Switzerland	7.4	3.0	4.4
Sweden	-	6.8	-6.8
Yugoslavia	3.1	14.2	-11.1
Japan	0.7	8.4	-7.7

Military Leaders Agree on Information Exchange

LD2008194892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0612 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—The Committee of Chiefs of Staff of the Commonwealth of Independent States has agreed on a procedure for mutual exchanges of information by means of special communications lines and officials, ITAR-TASS was told on Thursday [20 August] by Press-Secretary of the Chief Command of the CIS United Armed Forces Lieutenant General Valeriy Manilov.

According to him, the single procedure for mutual exchanges of information will improve interaction between all structures, bodies of military guidance, and the Armed Forces of the CIS countries. The exchange will cover all important fields: exercises, manoeuvers, implementation of military programmes and other operational measures.

Commenting on the absence at the meeting of representatives from Moldova and Georgia, General Manilov noted that those states would realise the need for collective security sooner or later. "Further integration of efforts in the field of defence and collective security meets the basic interests of the peoples of the CIS and the Armed Forces."

CIS 'Experts' Work on Draft Charter

LD1908175792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lasary for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 19 TASS—The commission of CIS experts continues work at the draft charter of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the CIS headquarters in Minsk.

"The draft charter will be completed by September 1, Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the CIS working group, told the BELINFORM news agency on Wednesday [19 August].

The session of the working group was attended by plenipotentiary representatives from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Uzbekistan.

Turkmenistan and Ukraine attended the meeting as observers. Representatives of the Commonwealth arrived in Minsk with concrete proposals and recommendations. The Russian delegation has submitted its proposals on almost all key issues of the new legislative act which determines the rights and duties of the Commonwealth member-states.

The participants discussed the ammendments made by the Russian delegation to the charter's preamble, and its sections: "Economical Court", "Commission on Human Rights", "Collective Security and Cooperation in Military Sphere", "Prevention of Conflicts and Solution of Disputes" and the charter's final provisions.

Belarus has made a number of essential proposals concerning the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth, which is precisely the name proposed for the working group of the councils of heads of state and government and which headquarters are situated in Minsk.

A proposal made by Belarus to create an interparliamentary CIS assembly was received with great interest by CIS representatives.

CIS Consular Officials Meet in Belarus

LD2008175892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by correspondent P. Makritskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the initiative of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, a meeting of the heads of consular services of the Commonwealth countries took place in Minsk.

[Makritskiy] Three documents were examined at the meeting. They are on visa-free travel for citizens of CIS countries on the territory of its member states; on mutual recognition of visas issued by member states of the CIS; and on aims and principles of coordinating actions in the field of consular services. Heads of delegations representing all CIS states apart from Turkmenistan agreed that with the creation of the Commonwealth, it is necessary to establish new relations as far as consular activities are concerned. It is possible to say that we, citizens of independent CIS member states can travel freely to all republics of the former union.

[Begin V.A. Astapenko recording, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Belarus] I think that if we are talking about internal movement, it was stated by everyone today that a de facto and visa-free situation has taken shape as far as traveling outward is concerned. I hope that this will be confirmed juridically after the Bishkek meeting. [end recording]

Seamen Evacuate Refugees From Abkhazia

OW2008170892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Auxiliary crafts and ships from the Black Sea Fleet evacuated 9976 refugees from the ports of Sukhumi and Gudauta (Abkhazia) in the Sochi region (Krasnodar territory, Russia) on August 19-20.

One ship from the Novorossiysk steamship line and Russian Coast Guards evacuated 1928 more people from Sukhumi.

Medical assistance is being offered to all refugees, although there were no injuries or deaths in the course of the evacuation.

Black Sea Officers Transferred to Ukraine Navy

OW2008171792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since the beginning of 1992 44 officers and 14 warrant officers from the Black Sea Fleet were transferred to the Ukrainian Navy. The Black Sea Fleet press center confirmed that the transfers were conducted on the basis of reports and no one was forcibly discharged.

Chernavin Addresses Baltic Fleet Officers

PM1908105092 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Report from Kaliningrad by G. Sablin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the Baltic Fleet Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Chernavin has held staff exercises and a scheduled inspection of combat readiness.

[Sablin's voice over video of warship at sea] I shall say immediately that this dry formulation conceals a whole stratum of acute problems connected with the reduction and withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries and also with the results of the commercialization which had encompassed our armed forces until the president's well-known decree. In the Baltic alone in recent years over 30 warships were sold abroad at ridiculously low prices—these facts were cited at a meeting between Commander in Chief Admiral Chernavin and representatives of the fleet's officers' collective.

[Chernavin] Today dishonest people are squandering, are selling off our property, which is causing damage to the fleet's combat readiness and combat capability.

[Sablin] To be fair, it must be said that about 20 criminal cases and other instances revealed by inspection cannot be connected with the name of the new commander of the Baltic Fleet, Admiral Yegorov. He inherited this and now in conjunction with the commander in chief of the navy they have decided to cleanse the Baltic Fleet's Augean stables.

Baltic Fleet Investigates Sale of Navy Property

OW2008121492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The procurator's office of the Baltic fleet has opened 17 criminal cases against naval officers who illegally sold navy property. According to well-informed sources, several chiefs of stores are charged with selling navy property in violation of the ban of the former USSR Defence Minister Marshal Shaposhnikov on commercial activities in the Armed Forces.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Navy Admiral Chernavin personally controls the progress of the investigations.

'Early Demise' of Transcaucasus MD Viewed

PM2008102392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Kamo Arushanov, member of the Transcaucasus Military District (MD) Staff Officers' Assembly Council: "We Want To Know Where We Stand. Reflections Prompted by Rumors of an Early 'Demise' for the Transcaucasus Military District"]

[Text] I would like to express my opinion: The group of forces in Georgia is "bearing up," it is under control and capable of implementing the functions assigned to it. The same applies to the 7th Army, stationed in Armenia.

The situation is worse regarding the 4th Army stationed in Azerbaijan. Assessing the state of affairs realistically, it has to be admitted with bitterness that the army has effectively disintegrated. I would venture to say that the main blame for this falls on the army command, which has proved incapable of controlling the units under its command, preventing corruption and demoralization among unit commanders, and halting the pilfering and plunder of combat hardware and weapons. To be fair, it has to be admitted that this process also had its objective causes—the lack of proper status for the troops, the notorious "Tbilisi syndrome," and the all but mystical awe among the leadership at all levels regarding terms such as "sovereignty" and "national rebirth."

However, there are some common factors characterizing the position of Russian military units in the Transcaucasus. They are increasingly often becoming the target of attacks by criminal nationalist elements which sometimes operate with the tacit agreement of state or local organs of power.

Anywhere else in the world this is interpreted as banditry and the state suppresses such actions with utmost resolve. Let me recall the recent unrest in Los Angeles. More than 50 people were killed, 2,500 were injured, and there were 6,000 arrests in three days, but order was nonetheless restored. No one thought of accusing the state of brutally suppressing nascent negro national consciousness.

Perhaps someone believes that officers of the Transcaucasus Military District [MD] intend to use force against the young national democracies in the Transcaucasus, but we do not want to interfere in their domestic affairs, and we will not do so. We simply cannot understand why, as the sovereignty of the Transcaucasus republics strengthens, Russian officers are increasingly—of late virtually daily—becoming living targets. Why bandits killed during attacks on our units are buried as heroes with military honors, why money is collected for them virtually throughout the world, and why the republic leadership expresses condolences to their families, while our guys are frequently not even mentioned, is curious. A hat is passed around to scrape together money for a coffin, or at worst for an "article" knocked together from ammunition boxes.

We are not confident that our lawful actions in defending our subordinates, our wives, and our children will not make us end up in the dock under local laws.

Why is the U.S. Navy dispatched immediately if a U.S. citizen is taken hostage in some God forsaken country? In the Transcaucasus our servicemen are kidnapped virtually by the dozen, and officials merely express concern, but what is such "concern" worth? Three of our comrades taken hostage in Nakhichevan spent more than three months in captivity. They were tortured, and the upshot is they are dead.

Questions, questions, bitter questions, nonetheless we appeal to politicians: It is necessary without delay to define and consolidate the status of the Transcaucasus Military District at interstate level, and if a decision to withdraw the district's troops is adopted, it is necessary to ensure that it is a withdrawal based on a state program, a systematic withdrawal providing all social guarantees, rather than a hasty and disgraceful flight.

Incidentally, the experience of Regiment 366 showed that its withdrawal did not resolve a single problem, it merely exacerbated problems and triggered a further escalation of violence. No one has been made responsible for the disgraceful plunder of this regiment.

Under no circumstances must the people described by the peculiar term "Russian-speaking population" be forgotten. They comprise many veterans of the Armed Forces who may be deprived of the last guarantees of normal living conditions fit for human beings if the district is abolished.

Military people know how to take orders, but they are used to these orders being precise and unambiguous. We want to be sure that we will not be abandoned to the mercy of fate. We are prepared to serve, but we want to know for whom and why we are doing this in the Transcaucasus. Naturally, we have a gut feeling, if I may put it this way, what the answers to these questions are, but we want to be told openly and honestly.

High Command Seen as Key to New Stability

PM2008144592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 92 p 2

[Commentary by military observer Lieutenant Colonel Anatoliy Dokuchayev: "The High Command Now and In the Future; On the New Geopolitical Reality and the Role of the CIS Joint Armed Forces"]

[Text] So, the CIS Joint Armed Forces are acquiring a new quality, as is the Joint Armed Forces High Command, which now represents the interests of all the republics. Some may ask: Did it not represent them before? Yes, of course it did. We must admit, however, that the republics have sometimes associated the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command with the Russian military department. All that is now in the past. On 7 May, Boris Yeltsin signed a decree creating the Russian Federation Armed Forces, and Russia has begun forming its own Defense Ministry. On 26 May the High Command moved out of the White House—the one on the Arbat—to 41 Leningradskiy Prospekt, to the building which used to house the headquarters of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces. There it awaited its fate.

No, the High Command is an established, functioning structure and all matters concerning its finance have been settled; everything is in order. I am talking about something else. The High Command in particular and the Joint Armed Forces in their present form could become a very important factor of stability on the Eurasian continent and a prototype for the CIS countries' closer military (and not only military) integration in the future, but they could also become secondary formations doomed to a transient existence. If we are talking about this aspect, the role and prospects of the aforementioned structures have yet to be clearly established. This is vital to our Commonwealth.

Geopolitics—this word is becoming fashionable because of the appearance of a new geopolitical and geostrategic reality in the world. With the collapse of the USSR, the foundations underpinning strategic stability and global security have been disturbed.

The foundations of security have also been disturbed at regional level. The collapse of the Soviet system, to use the graphic expression of one publicist, has released the "monstrous latent aggression of the 150 or more tribes" who inhabit the territory stretching from the Adriatic to Kamchatka. As many as 180 different sources of tension (one-third of them in Russia) have arisen in what was once a single state. Some experts estimate that as many as 500 armed formations with hundreds of thousands of units of weaponry had emerged here as the second half of 1992 began. The majority of these armed groups are not lawfully constituted and are not subordinate to the legitimate bodies and governments of the newly independent states. We therefore cannot rule out the possibility that each source of tension could become a seat of military conflict in the future.

Instability in the CIS also stems from the changes in the military-strategic situation along the perimeter of its external borders and from the collapse of our common defense system. Military-political groups involving neighboring countries are beginning to form within the borders of yesterday's superpower. Take the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Russia and Turkey have both taken a firm stand in this connection. Ankara cites the 1921 Kars Treaty, under which it considers itself responsible for peace in Nakhichevan. We should remember that Turkey is a member of NATO, while Russia and Armenia are signatories to the Tashkent Treaty "On Collective Security" signed in May this year.

Together with Iran and Iraq, Turkey is increasing its political influence in Central Asia. Pakistan and Afghanistan are stepping up their efforts to draw the Central Asian republics into the orbit of their influence. Kabul has declared its willingness to annex Tajikistan "if our brothers should want that."

Despite all the positive moves recently, the conflict in the Dniester region is far from being resolved and is taking on an international aspect.

The general weakening of Russia's position, as the USSR's legal successor, is a definite factor for instability. Japan is now intensifying its claims to the Kuril Islands. China could present its own bill when the opportunity arises.

What can be done to counteract the disintegration processes? What can neutralize the sources of tension? Together with other factors, close military cooperation.

You could say that the Joint Armed Forces High Command has been working on two fronts for the last five months, ever since being transformed from the USSR Defense Ministry. First, it has been fulfilling its main function of directing the Armed Forces. Second, it has acted as a coordinating body in the organization of military cooperation within the CIS. It has prepared draft agreements on defense matters (more than 70 have been signed), organized sessions of the Council of Defense Ministers, etc. In other words the High Command, or to be more precise individual specialists from the Administration of Affairs and the main operational, organizational, mobilization, and other directorates, have been acting as working bodies of the Commonwealth's top political and military structures responsible for defense matters. Understandably, officers and generals have had to tackle tasks unfamiliar to them. All this has complicated the study of defense matters and led to needless friction at sessions of the CIS Defense Council.

A great deal has fallen into place now that the process of forming the Russian Armed Forces has begun. Moreover, in May Kazakhstan and some of the Central Asian republics adopted the decision to form their own armies. Most of the CIS countries do not doubt the fact that the High Command is needed. But with what tasks and with what structure?

A great deal became clear on 6 July in Moscow. That day, a scheduled session of the Council of CIS Heads of State signed an agreement on organizing the High Command's activity. The document was not adopted easily, but it has been signed and that is a success.

The High Command's tasks are now clearer. They are geared to the achievement of global and regional security and, according to its representatives, consist of the following. The most important stems from the fact that strategic nuclear forces remain within its jurisdiction. Consequently, the High Command is responsible for the unified, centralized control of strategic forces, the improvement of their structure, and the maintenance of the necessary level of combat readiness in the interests of the CIS states. The CIS countries' efforts will be coordinated from 41 Leningradskiy Prospekt in the interests of ensuring collective security. The High Command will also be responsible for drawing up basic doctrines. It could assume responsibility for implementing timely, coordinated measures to prevent possible local conflicts on the Commonwealth's external borders. Peace-making forces have been formed. This is an area to which the High Command can apply itself.

Nevertheless, I repeat, a great deal is still in a fog of uncertainty. In any event the High Command can and must carry a lot of weight in the task of building military cooperation. In my opinion, people in the CIS countries' top political and military circles will certainly come to realize that stability and security are not achieved by separation or by erecting fences along their borders but by close cooperation in all spheres, the military sphere included. In the meantime, Ukraine, for example, has refused to sign the agreement on organizing the High Command's activity.

I must also point out that the Russian military department does not support all of the High Command's initiatives. I have heard, in particular, that Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov is apparently creating another general staff for himself. But is this true? There are no more than 400 personnel in the High Command. Of these, some 300 are military servicemen. This is half the number that formed the staff of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces and is an appropriate size for the staff of a combined army (today's issue of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA gives readers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with a flow chart illustrating the organization of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command). Is this really a heavy burden for the CIS countries? The High Command has been allocated just over 86 million rubles [R] for six months. One defense minister joked in this connection: A member of a cooperative earns more than that in six months. The estimated expenditure for 1993 is approximately R200 million. (Russia will contribute roughly 61 percent, and the remaining 39 percent will be made up by the other countries.) One would have thought this expenditure inconsequential compared to what the High Command can do in terms of strengthening military cooperation, achieving stability, and forming a new geopolitical entity.

As I have already said, we could, of course, make the High Command into a formal structure with no special weight or powers, but would this be to the benefit of the CIS? If we think of its long-term, rather than immediate interests....

Let us think, for example, why it is that structures like NATO are lasting and why great powers get along peacefully with smaller ones in such organizations. The reason is that they ensure equal status for their members, and decisions are adopted on the basis of consensus and actually implemented. There is no such understanding in the CIS republics at present. Statements are made from a position of strength and partners try to limit one another. The "infantile disorder of leftism" is being overcome in many areas but too slowly. Partners must respect one another in everything, even in small details.

Particular delicacy is required of leaders at various levels in Russia and Ukraine. I can say quite positively that an alliance with Ukraine is now more important for Russia than alliance with the United States or West Europe (because the peoples and economies of these two states are inseparably linked). Alliance with Russia is equally important for Ukraine, in my opinion. Surely Americans and Canadians are not more closely linked than Russians and Ukrainians? Yet they have the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

Or take another example. The West European Union is creating joint structures and is set to become the military organization of the European Community. This Union will have military contingents at its disposal, including its own rapid reaction forces, but there is more to this than meets the eye. Military cooperation will bring the countries of Europe closer together and will ultimately be beneficial in every respect.

We already have many joint military structures. Now is the time to start thinking about preserving them. Yesterday would have been premature—the republics were worried about their sovereignty. Tomorrow an undertaking of this nature could cost a fortune (because everything will have been destroyed), but now the first step has been taken in this direction: We have signed the Treaty "On Collective Security," and several bilateral agreements have been concluded in the military sphere, including agreements with Ukraine. Finally, we have the High Command, which is accountable to the Council of CIS Heads of State and, because of this, could play an important role in strengthening regional stability and security. On the other hand, it might not.

Half-Year Production, Retail Statistics

OW2108053492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1820 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Tables from the "Statistical Data" section of the regular weekly "Trade & Investment" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text]

Industrial Production and Wholesale Prices in CIS Nations From January to July of 1992

	(1)	(2)	(3)
Azerbaijan	-	-	78.2
Armenia	48.4	973	48.7
Belarus	86.6	1,652	88.3
Kazakhstan	87.0	1,799	87.9
Kyrgyzstan	79.7	1,784	81.9
Moldova	72.5	1,156	73.5
Russia	85.2	1,569	86.5
Tajikistan	83.5	1,646	83.9
Turkmenistan	81.5	788	83.5
Uzbekistan	90.8	1,011	91.3
Ukraine	-	-	87.7

(1) Industrial production from January to July of 1992 as a % of that of the same period of 1991

(2) Wholesale prices from January to July of 1992 as a % of that of the same period of 1991

(3) Industrial production from January to June of 1992 as a % of that of the same period of 1991

Retail Trade in CIS Nations

	real prices in mn [millions] of rubles		permanent prices	
	Jan-July 1992	July of 1992	as % of Jan-Jul 1991	as % of July 1991
Azerbaijan	13860	3000	34.3	37.5
Armenia	5867	1060	27.2	28.9
Belarus	86998	21178	70.6	80.1
Kazakhstan	69278	15086	58.7	59.2
Kyrgyzstan	9979	1743	36.4	32.8
Moldova	19276	3820	44.2	49.3
Russia	1132062	240997	60.3	67.4
Tajikistan	8128	1354	33.9	28.1
Turkmenistan	10163	1955	63.1	63.7
Uzbekistan	43667	8737	56.7	72.5
Ukraine	353500	98000	74.6	80.7
CIS Total	1760179	398039	62.0	68.6

INTERFAX 'Trade & Investment' Headline News

OW2108063792

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERFAX in English, as received via Tokyo KYODO facsimile transmission at 1814 GMT on 20 August, carries its "Trade & Investment" feature. Within the "Headline News" section of the weekly feature, INTERFAX carries items that include the following:

Under the headline "Russia Reorganizes Committee on Foreign Investment," INTERFAX reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "idling the Committee on Foreign Investment within the Ministry of Finance. The committee's functions will be transferred to the resurrected Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development (RAICD) headed by First Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin." The decree states that the agency will coordinate "relations with foreign governments and international organizations in areas of investment, finance, humanitarian, cultural, and scientific and technical cooperation, and technical consulting activities." The new federal agency will control the property of the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies and Cultural Relations with Foreign Nations Abroad and in Russia, as well as the property of the Committee on International Humanitarian and Technical Aid in the Russian Government. RAICD should be operational by mid-September.

A report headlined "Belarus To Follow South Korean Path of Development," says that Belarus has decided to use the "Korean experience" to surmount its economic crisis and is considering a return to long-term government planning. The Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich, who will soon visit Seoul, told INTERFAX that he supports developing "a detailed five- year plan for the development" of Belarus similar to five-year plans followed in South Korea from 1954-1964.

In a report headlined "Georgia Stops Export of Non-Ferrous and Ferrous Scrap Metal," INTERFAX says that the Georgian Government has decided to "stop the export of non-ferrous and ferrous scrap metals, including those intended for re-export," from 1 September to 31 December this year. As of 18 August no licenses for export or re-export will be issued. The decision was made in an effort to "stop the theft of ferrous and non-ferrous metals and their illegal export from the republic."

Another item reports that the administration of Sevastopol, in the Crimea, has "submitted the necessary documents on the formation of a free economic zone (FEZ) for the approval of the president of the Ukraine." The project involves a 5-6 percent tax reduction, development of trade and tourism, and opening an air route linking Sevastopol, Istanbul, and Athens.

Under the headline "Free Trade is Now Allowed in Azerbaijan," INTERFAX reports that Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey has signed a decree on the liberalization of trade in the republic. "Retail stores and public catering enterprises, possessing the status of legal entities, now have the right to deal in free trade, business and other forms of economic activity."

Reporting on Russian-Chinese trade, INTERFAX cites PRC Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and International Relations Wu Yi as saying that "foreign trade turnover between China and Russia for the first six months of this year was $2 billion." The Chinese minister headed a trade and economic delegation which visited Russia's Far East. Wu Yi is reported as saying that "the Chinese Government extended substantial trade privileges to Russia and hopes the Russian government will reply in kind." The Chinese minister expressed concern over a "possible increase in import-export duties for a number of barter goods which Russian businessmen say Gaydar's government is preparing." He said "this is not a step which will improve trade and economic relations with China".

In another report on trade with China, INTERFAX reports on a press conference prior to the opening of an exhibit of products from China's eastern provinces in Moscow on 20 August. The head of the Chinese delegation says that border trade between the eastern provinces of China and regions in Siberia and the Far East exceeded $300 million for the first half of 1992. It adds that firms from the eastern provinces, which handle one-third of Chinese exports, "would like to expand to markets in other regions of Russia and CIS nations."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Aug

LD2108061292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0429 GMT 21 Aug 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Moscow newspapers continue to publish materials dealing with the first anniversary of the failure of the coup attempt in the USSR and give wide coverage to the situation in the areas of inter-ethnic conflicts on the territory of the former USSR, especially in Abkhaziya.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes a chapter from the manuscript of the book "Kremlin Conspiracy. Investigation Version" by Russian Prosecutor-General Valentin Stepankov and head of the investigation group for the State Emergency Committee case Yevgeniy Lisov. The chapter is entitled "USSR President Was Not the Only One Who Had Access to Nuclear Button". Analysing numerous materials, the authors of the book point out that President and Commander-in-Chief Mikhail Gorbachev was deprived of a possibility to control strategic nuclear forces on the eve of the August 18 coup attempt. Moreover, it was found out that a nuclear blow could be dealt in the USSR without his order or participation. In fact, "Gorbachev had never had access to the nuclear button. Nuclear forces were fully under the control of the military top brass and the KGB", Stepankov and Lisov wrote.

"Abkhazia, which was an island of stability in Georgia before August 14, turned into a regular inferno after the enforcement of law and order," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes. Now the Georgian leadership is taking steps to make peace with the Abkhazian leadership. It was decided to pull out units of the Georgian National Guard from Sukhumi and to replace them with Georgian Interior Ministry troops. At the same time, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points to the danger of the conflict developing into a full-scale war with the participation of North Caucasian nations. According to the newspaper, some 3,000 to 5,000 volunteers from that region are ready to take part in combat operations on the side of Abkhazia. Weapons are being purchased in large quantities. Ruslan Khadzhibekov, deputy head of government of the Republic of Adygea, integrated in the Russian Federation, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "The Abkhazian people survived genocide in the 19th century, and we are not going to allow another one. The procrastination of Russia's response may alienate North Caucasian nations from it."

Valeriy Tishkov, chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Nationalities Policy, has contributed an article to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in which he expresses serious concern over the situation in Abkhazia. Tishkov pointed to the danger of the involvement of Russian citizens in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, which would mean "a serious complication of Russian-Georgian relations." In his opinion, the settlement of the Abkhazian problem by means of force is fraught with another danger: "Thousands of representatives of the Abkhazian and Adyge nations living in far-away foreign countries may be drawn into the conflict." Tishkov demanded "the immediate termination of hostilities, the withdrawal of all armed units from the Abkhazian territory and the beginning at once of a Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue with the participation of impartial observers". He said Russia was ready to "take upon itself the mediation functions and draw into those activities the international peace organizations" with a view to achieving the stabilisation of the situation in the region.

In the opinion of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which analyses the progress of the economic reform in Russia, its first stage ended in failure. This is especially clear, if one takes as an example the situation in industry, which is on the verge of "all-out recession and massive unemploument, which is fraught with the danger of explosion." "The Gaydar team has lost the first round: The government has failed to force state monopolies to live according to their means, to save every kopeck and never again to plead for handouts from the budget," the newspaper writes, recalling that mutual debts of industrial enterprises reached 3.2 trillion roubles. In these conditions the government was forced to make concessions to industrial managers and allowed the granting of credits to enterprises and the writing off of their mutual debts. In the opinion of the newspaper, by doing so the reformers are "reasonably retreating to the positions, prepared beforehand, in order to gain time and give a chance to the people to brace themselves for a decisive breakthrough to the market". The industrial lobby, which "has formed a solid, well-organised opposition", realises that Gaydar is better than hyperinflation and does not intend to demand his resignation, the newspaper points out.

Israeli Foreign Minister's Visit Previewed

LD2008160292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres hold talks in Moscow on Thursday [20 August]. The visit of Shim'on Peres will take place at the initiative and request of the Israeli side. It has also become possible through the efforts of the state sponsors of Russia and the United States.

On the eve of the meeting the head of the African and Middle East Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Viktor Posuvalyuk, told newsmen how Russia assesses the prospects of a Middle East settlement:

[Begin recording] [Posuvalyuk in Russian fading to English translation] I would like to note the general stabilization of the military and political situation in the region depends first of all on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and also on removing other hotbeds of tension in the Middle East. The establishment of a stable peace in the region is in the interests of Russia and therefore its government has been and continues to conduct an active policy in the area. The conflict that has been going on for several decades cannot be settled by military means. This can be done only through negotiations, and such talks have started at the Madrid conference. Lately there have appeared certain positive moves in the negotiation process between the Arabs and Israel, and that in my opinion is first of all the appearance of a new government in Israel headed by Mr. Rabin. The statements that have been made and the government's political platform give hope that the negotiating process will be a success. It has been recognized in the Arab capitals that with the appearance of the Rabin government there now are new prospects for settling the conflict, and we believe that the Damascus Declaration is the result of those new positive factors. [end recording]

The declaration was approved by the foreign ministers of some of the Arab countries at their meeting last month, said Mr. Posuvalyuk. He also singled out what the state sponsors of Russia and the United States have been able to achieve when working together. Russia's Foreign Ministry says this helped people to believe that there will soon be one less hotbed of tension in the world:

[Begin Posuvalyuk recording] In our opinion the institute of state sponsorship proves its efficiency more and more as the Middle East process picks up pace and moves from protocol to the crux of the matter, he said, and the role of the sponsors will continue to grow. That is why Russian and American state sponsors are working constantly in close contact and carefully coordinating their action, and they intend to continue doing that in the future. Russia and the United States seek at the present stage to help the participants of the talks to approach disputed problems more flexibly and try and reach a compromise based on present day reality. [end recording]

Arrives in Moscow 19 Aug

LD1908203992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Moscow on an official visit late on Wednesday [19 August].

According to an Israeli embassy representative in Moscow, Shim'on Peres will be received by Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and will also have meetings with Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and acting prime minister of the country Yegor Gaydar.

The Israeli minister plans to meet representatives of the intelligentsia and the Jewish community. He will also hold a press conference for Russian and foreign journalists.

After the completion of his visit to Moscow, the head of the Israel's foreign department will leave for Minsk, the capital of Byelarus, on a one-day visit, where he will have meetings with the republic's Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko. Shim'on Peres also intends to visit his home town of Vishnevo in Byelarus.

Holds Talks With Kozyrev

LD2008135692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—Issues of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and the Middle East peace process, in light of the next round of Arab-Israeli talks which begin in Washington next week, have been discussed during a two-hour conversation between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. This was reported today at a news conference held at the end of the talks. The talks were constructive, business-like and encouraging, noted Andrey Kozyrev. Shim'on Peres is on a working visit to Moscow.

Russia is prepared to use every opportunity for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem, said the Russian foreign minister, and its activities will facilitate the advance of this process on all fronts. "We want peace in the Middle East," he said, "and are playing the role of honest brokers, trying to help the sides coordinate their positions."

The head of Israel's foreign policy department said that the Israeli Government would like to see real progress in the Middle East peace process and is doing everything possible to achieve this objective. The talks process is aimed at creating a "new Middle East" as a region of peace and cooperation. Shim'on Peres noted Russia's role in stabilizing the situation in the region and expressed the hope that in the future, too, Russia would make a great contribution to resolving the Middle East problem.

Replying to journalists' questions about anti-Semitism in Russia, Shim'on Peres expressed confidence that the Russian Government would take all the necessary measures to end this phenomenon. "That is the completely indisputable and clear standpoint of the Russian president and government," said Andrey Kozyrev. He mentioned in particular the fact that criminal proceedings have been brought against several publications that openly propagate anti-Semitism and other forms of ethnic intolerance.

The communique adopted at the end of the talks reports that both sides agreed to create a joint committee of experts to draft an agreement on the problem of a Middle East settlement for signing by the foreign ministers of the two states at a meeting in New York, which has been scheduled for 1 September 1992.

Agrees on Working Group

LD2008172892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—For the Russian leadership, the development of ties and cooperation with Israel is not an ephemeral matter but a prolonged process strengthening bilateral relations in all spheres, said Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy today at a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

During the lengthy conversation the sides discussed the state and the basic directions of cooperation. An accord on setting up a working group in the near future to deal with the operational development of documents and a program of interaction was reached. The Israeli side noted the role of Russia in settling the Near East problem. During the conversation the idea of elaborating economic projects which would embrace not only Russia and Israel but Arab countries as well was also expressed.

Meets With Rutskoy

OW2008165692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy received Isreali Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the Kremlin Thursday [20 August]. Rutskoy called the visit a "great political event in the relations of the two countries, as it should lead to the beginning of a new system of ties between the countries". He emphasized that cooperation with Isreal is not a question of momentary politics for the Russian government but of a long-term program touching every aspect of international relations.

The Isreali Foreign Minister fully supported Rutskoy's position on this question in an interview with an Interfax correspondent. "Large prospects are opening amid our relations in the area of cultural cooperation and in private enterprise development", he said. Peres also said that concrete plans already exist for the creation of joint ventures in agriculture and medicine.

Agrees on Trade Cooperation

LD2008195492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1916 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, acting prime minister of the Russian Federation, today received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is currently in Moscow on an official visit.

At a brief news conference held immediately after the talks, Gaydar told journalists that the two sides had agreed on joint work on an agreement on the prevention of double taxation, on mutual protection of investments, and an agreement on trade cooperation between Russia and Israel.

The two sides reached accord on cooperation in the fields of agriculture, desalination of water, and potential cooperation in the field of aviation and the pharmaceutical industry, Gaydar said. "We believe Russia and Israel have a serious potential for economic cooperation", he added.

Peres voiced hope that the successfully developing Israeli- Russian cooperation would be continued.

Touching upon the complex economic situation in the Russian Federation, Peres said Russia is a great country and it will succeed in overcoming all difficulties.

Comments on Arms Sales to Arabs

TA2108134892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, currently on a visit to Moscow, said that Russia can play a constructive role in peace-making in the Middle East, but at the same time he expressed concern about Moscow's arms sales to the Arab countries. In a news conference in Moscow, Shim'on Peres said that the new relations between Russia and the United States are a God given gift for peace in the Middle East and that Russia may turn from an arms supplier to a peace-maker. Peres added that Russia can use its good diplomatic relations with the

Arab countries as a bridge between the two sides in the Middle East, expressing the hope that Moscow will limit arms sales to the region.

Comments on Cooperation

LD2108135292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—Israel and Russia have a considerable potential for political, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, and it needs to be put on a practical footing, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told a news conference in Moscow on Friday [21 August].

He is currently in the Russian Federation on an official visit.

Peres said that during his stay in Moscow he met his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev, Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, and Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar. The talks focused on ways to develop bilateral cooperation in many fields and the Middle East problem.

Asked by journalists to comment on the new Israeli Government's policy, Peres said that it aims to give priority to human rather than territorial element. Huge sums that were before allocated by the government to build new settlements on Israeli-controlled territories, he said, will be now diverted to meet social needs.

The Israeli Government plans to make major advances on the road of a search for peace in the Middle East. The minister voiced the readiness to immediately begin talks with Arabs in any country, to conduct them constantly and on the essence of the matter. "We have enough wind to sail in the direction of peace," Peres continued.

The Israeli minister noted Russia's great role in a search for ways of peaceful settlement in the Middle East and expressed readiness that it "will play there a more positive role than ever before".

Speaking about the Jewish emigration to Israel from Russia and other countries of the CIS, Peres expressed the hope that it will continue. He said that the bulk of the 10-billion dollar credit by the United States will be used to absorb emigrants from Russia. The minister also mentioned the possibility of positive solution of the question of double citizenship for Russian emigrants.

Speaking about the next round of Arab-Israeli talks due to begin in Washington on August 24, he said that the talks will be conducted with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Syrians and Lebanese. The talks with Palestinians will deal with ways to settle the conflict between the two peoples. The talks with Syrians will focus on the problem of creation of safe, peaceful and permanent borders between the two states. As for the Lebanese side, "peace can be established immediately", if Lebanon restores the balance inside the country and will not pose a threat to Israel.

Yeltsin Sees 'Good Prospects' for Turkish Ties

PM2008132592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Meeting in Kremlin"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, Russian head of state, has said that the Russian and Turkish approaches to world processes and situations in hot spots have much in common.

Boris Yeltsin was speaking at a Kremlin reception for Husamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, who is here on a visit. He pointed out that "from the viewpoint of democracy, Russia is a young state, its foreign policy is in the process of taking shape, and we have therefore not yet had time to adjust all the aspects of our relations with different countries." As for Turkey, very good prospects for cooperation could be glimpsed. The Russian president said that an accord had been reached to increase reciprocal commodity turnover fivefold by the year 2000.

Khasbulatov Receives Turkish Assembly Delegation

PM2008134592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Aleksandr Golubev report: "Visit: Time for Cooperation"]

[Text] Yesterday Husamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, who is paying a visit to Moscow as head of a Turkish parliamentary delegation, met with Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Opening the meeting, the Russian parliament speaker noted that from the time that it acquired autonomy Russia began to devote particular attention to developing bilateral ties with Turkey. The historical origins of these relations, R.I. Khasbulatov noted, go back to the time of Ivan III. Very good relations are now taking shape between Russia and Turkey, he stressed.

The meeting then continued behind closed doors. After it had ended H. Cindoruk answered your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent's questions.

[Golubev] Mr. Chairman, what problems did you discuss with Ruslan Khasbulatov?

[Cindoruk] We devoted particular attention to discussing the idea of setting up an Interparliamentary Assembly of Black Sea States. Our country and Russia are now experiencing the best period in their relations and my talks with Mr. Khasbulatov confirmed once again that we adhere to similar viewpoints on virtually all issues.

[Golubev] What precisely do you mean when you talk about economic and cultural cooperation?

[Cindoruk] Turkey and Russia have tremendous potential for joint economic projects. We will move down that road. As for culture, here too there are great reserves for strengthening cooperation. Russia was always known for its people's creativity. Turkey too is renowned for its folklore traditions.

Communique Issued With Turkey

TA2008165292 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1610 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, Aug 20 (A.A)—Turkey and Russia on Thursday [20 August] called on the other nine members of a recently created Black Sea Economic Cooperation Region to form an inter-parliamentary assembly.

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Pact was set up in June with the participation of Turkey, Russia, Greece, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Albania, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

At present the group has no permanent secretariat or parliamentary representation.

A joint communique issued after official talks between Turkish Parliament Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk and his Russian counterpart, Ruslan Khasbulatov, said that the Black Sea Declaration signed by 11 countries in June in Istanbul was a positive step for regional cooperation.

The communique said that parliaments of the member countries would play an important role in forming a political framework for improving democratic and parliamentary systems in the Black Sea countries and in creating a political framework for economic cooperation.

The communique called for the setting up of a joint working group to carry out preliminary work on an interparliamentary draft agreement.

Heads of state or government from the 11 member countries signed an agreement for the pact whose ultimate aim is to create a Black Sea zone with a burgeoning market of some 400 million people in an area stretching from the Adriatic to the Caspian Sea.

The pact's aim is free circulation of people, goods and services to stimulate private sector activity and eventually create a Black Sea zone which would complement the European Community, according to Demirel.

The Black Sea Declaration also envisages cooperation in power, transport, communications, information and ecology, as well as establishment of a joint investment bank to finance multi- and bi-lateral projects and to help small- and medium-scale businesses throughout the region.

Yeltsin Signs Decree Recognizing Macedonia

PM2008132792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Decree No. 821 of President B. Yeltsin "On Recognizing the Republic of Macedonia," signed by President B. Yeltsin and dated the Kremlin, Moscow, 4 August 1992]

[Text] The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is recognized as a sovereign independent state.

The Russian Foreign Ministry is to hold talks on establishing diplomatic relations and appropriately formalizing the accord that is reached.

[Signed] Russian President B. Yeltsin
[Dated]The Kremlin, Moscow, 4 August 1992

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Belgrade Initiative

OW2008161292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow welcomes the report that the Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic sent a letter to the chairman of the U.N. Security Council and to the U.N. Secretary General, says a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"Belgrade's explicit announcement that it recognizes the borders between the former Yugoslav republics as international, that it recognizes Bosnia-Hercegovina within its present boundaries, that it has no territorial claims to Croatia, that it will punish any Yugoslav citizen who happens to be involved in the practice of "ethnic cleansing", can be viewed as an important step in the direction of deescalating the conflict, the statement says.

Moscow also welcomes the Yugoslav authorities' intention to "carry out investigations into human rights abuses practised in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojevodina".

The statement describes as "important" the part of M. Panic's letter which says that "it's inadmissible to grant military aid to participants in the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that it's expedient to deploy international forces on that republic's border with Yugoslavia".

In its statement Russia's Foreign Ministry expresses hope that the Yugoslav leadership "will take practical steps to carry out its initiatives, and that the other participants in the conflict will take these initiatives very seriously". This is necessary in view of the need to "reach agreements on stopping the bloodshed and establishing peace without delay".

News Conference Held on Georgian Actions

LD2008175492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1249 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Excerpts] At the request of the committee on human rights of the Moscow City Soviet, a meeting hall of the Presidium of the Moscow Oblast Soviet was put at the disposal of a news conference dedicated to the situation in Georgia after the entrance of armed formations into Abkhazia. Olga Vasilenko has returned to our editorial office from there. Let's listen to her:

[Vasilenko] Deputies of the Russian Supreme Soviet whose presence was announced on the invitation did not attend the news conference. As for deputies of the Georgian parliament, there was only (Tengiz Chachava), who introduced himself as Georgia's ambassador to Russia appointed by President Gamsakhurdia. There was television journalist Ovidze and Valeriya Novodvorskaya, who introduced herself as Gamsakhurdia's adviser on human rights. This fact surprised everyone, especially Western journalists. Following her speech at the news conference, a Western journalist asked her, in reference to her comments about the domination of Shevardnadze's junta in Georgia, why she was exposing crimes committed by Gamsakhurdia's junta one year ago and is now exposing another junta. I was wrong, she said in an honest and firm voice. I was misinformed. Accept my personal and public apologies. I am prepared to redeem my guilt even at the cost of my life, she said, I quote.

Now I will turn to the situation in Abkhazia and the way it was described by participants in this news conference. To a large extent, it was described as evil deeds by Shevardnadze's regime. [passage omitted including indistinct passage] One is only left to regret that today's news conference, or rather its participants, pursued their own political aims. [passage omitted including indistinct passage]

Commentary Assesses Georgian, Abkhaz Situation

LD2008200592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Commentary by Viktor Yenikeyev]

[Text] According to preliminary reports 70 people were killed and about 100 wounded in the several days since the dispatch of Georgian troops to Abkhaziya. There were several Russian citizens among them. The Moscow Government does not interfere in the conflict and urges the sides to settle their differences in a civilized way. Special naval units were sent to evacuate Russian citizens from resorts on the Abkhaziya coast of the Black Sea. Viktor Yenikeyev makes these comments:

Judging by the friendly and confidential relations between the Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze and the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev Moscow could not have been left uninformed about the plans of a military operation against Abkhaziya. However, the government did not take timely and adequate steps to protect its citizens.

The American experience comes to mind here. If there's a threat to the lives of Americans in one country or another the State Department warns them in advance. We don't have anything of the kind, at least so far. And so millions of people in Moscow, Vladivostok, Krasnoyarsk, and other parts of Russia followed with beating hearts how people, probably their friends or relatives, fled from resorts to the accompaniment of the explosion of bombs and mortar fire.

And one more thing. Russian troops are stationed in Abkhaziya, which belongs to Georgia. They have declared neutrality. But no one can promise that what happened in the Dniester River valley won't happen again. There the 14th Army also found itself in an ambiguous position. The newspaper "IZVESTIYA" believes that the developments in Abkhaziya are unfolding according to a similar script.

This brings to mind the humiliating position Russians living in the Baltic states, Moldova, Chechniya, and other parts of the former Soviet Union have found themselves in. Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is right of course when he says that it's impossible to guarantee the interests of Russians abroad or ethnic Russians in former Soviet republics by force. Clear international legal regulations are necessary. But they are still absent in relations with other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. And it is no relief for the mothers of the killed that their children have died under the regime of Eduard Shevardnadze who considers himself a democrat.

It's still not clear to many people why Georgian troops were sent to the resorts of Abkhaziya: To combat political opponents, the supporters of the overthrown President Gamsakhurdia, or to suppress the republic that declared its independence.

Eduard Shevardnadze speaks of the need for a speedy withdrawal of troops from Abkhaziya but refuses to accept the terms of peace proposed by its leaders. Meanwhile these leaders have declared readiness to resist the aggression to a victorious end or to the last soldier. So this latest tragedy in the ruins of the former Soviet Union just cannot have a speedy happy end.

The Armenian-Azeri conflict continues. Peace remains fragile in the Dniester River valley and South Ossetia.

Fortunately today Moscow is no longer responsible for the internal unrest in the independent members of the Commonwealth. Russia faces hard times but it can and must face them with dignity without permitting anyone to trample on the interests of the whole nation or an individual. And it doesn't matter whether it is a far off or neighboring country, friendly or not. Only in this case can we respect ourselves and others will respect us.

Official Comments on Baker Move to White House

*OW2108134192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1320 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] James Baker's move from the Department of State to the White House will not affect Russian-American relations, said Josif Podrazhanets, chief of the North American Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry.

Because of his position J. Baker will continue to monitor America's foreign policy which is a major element of George Bush's election campaign.

Besides, Lawrence Eagleberger, the newly-appointed Acting Secretary of State, is known as a high-class professional, a career diplomat of the "Kissinger school". "He is likely to follow J. Baker's policy".

According to I. Podrazhanets, it would hardly be justified to expect some "drastic" shifts in Washington's foreign policy, including its relationship with Russia.

CIA Focus on Economy Seen Quest for Funds

*PM2108130592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 3*

[Correspondent Manki Ponomarev report: "CIA Turns to Economy and Ecology. But Not to Detriment of Former Activities"]

[Text] "The structure of the East-West 'cold war' has been destroyed," the Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN wrote the other day. "There are, however, no apparent prospects that a form of new international order will take shape in the near future." This is clearly reasonable. But it is also reasonable to point out that an intensive search for these forms is under way in all areas, starting with global geopolitical problems and ending with the specific functions of this or that department.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the FBI, and other American organizations of this ilk are among these departments. Their focus on activities in the military sphere against the states of the former USSR and Warsaw Pact has now to a significant degree become meaningless. So the U.S. Administration and Congress are actively devising plans to change the strategy for the work of the country's intelligence services.

Judging by the pieces which have appeared in the American press, the CIA, FBI, and other federal intelligence-gathering departments will focus their attention increasingly hard on the area of international economic competition—an area where the United States' position in recent years has taken a serious knock under pressure from West European and Japanese competitors.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL considers that the CIA's leadership is well aware of the importance of the economy to U.S. national interests and of providing the relevant information to government organs. It does not, however, wish to switch entirely to industrial espionage and considers such a step to have been forced on it.

Incidentally, circumstances are impelling the CIA to deal also with other matters which seemed previously never to have been among its functions. For example, ecology.

CIA chief Gates devoted his speech at hearings in a Senate committee the other day to the ecological situation on the former USSR's territory. He spoke of the large-scale and complex problems confronting the CIS and East European states in the areas of environmental protection, the prevention of industrial disasters, and the elimination of the conequences of radioactive contamination of the environment.

Much of what Gates said seems to be quite reasonable, but in this case the motives which guided him in turning to ecology should be of particular interest. The CIA chief needed this in order to convince the legislators not to reduce appropriations for his department. He tried to convince congressmen that such reductions would lead to the winding down of efforts to observe the situation in the CIS in this sphere, and you cannot abandon efforts in other spheres, he argued.

So one of the main aims, if not the main aim, of U.S. intelligence departments in turning to economic and ecological problems is to justify at least somehow the need to continue to receive multi-billion dollar resources, but they are not turning to these problems to the detriment of other areas.

Yeltsin Meets With Armenian President

*LD2108110892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1022 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[Text] Moscow, 21 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan was held in the Kremlin today.

The Russian president's press service reports that the situation in the region was discussed during the meeting. Boris Yeltsin expressed deep concern over the development of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Issues relating to bilateral relations between Russia and Armenia were also discussed.

A treaty on the legal status of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation that are stationed in the Republic of Armenia and an agreement on political consultations on the problems of international relations that are of mutual interest were signed as a result of the meeting.

Azerbaijani Mission Protests Attacks on Citizens

MK2108090092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Azerbaijan's official mission in Moscow has sent the Russian Foreign Ministry a note expressing concern in connection with the activity of Russian law enforcement organs in respect of Azerbaijani citizens. This has been learned from confidential sources.

The note points out that, as of the second half of July, Moscow OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] personnel have been systematically beating up Azerbaijanis and confiscating their personal belongings on the pretext of imposing order.

Attacks on Azerbaijanis have also taken place in St. Petersburg, Khakasia, and Vologda Oblast.

The note also mentions that the Azerbaijani side has received no official explanations whatever despite repeated appeals to the Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration leadership and the Moscow Prosecutor's Office.

The note expressed hopes for an end to human rights violations and the whipping up of nationalist passions in respect of Azerbaijani citizens.

Another OMON raid took place 12 August in the Kuzminki area. According to information from Azerbaijan's official mission, 12 Azerbaijanis were beaten up.

Ministry Urges Return of Officers in Azerbaijan

OW2108141192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The RF [Russian Federation] Defence Ministry has demanded an immediate release of two Russian army officers, illegally detained by authorities in the Azeri town of Kyurdamir on August 11-12. The Ministry's press-service has reported to IF [INTERFAX] with reference to an account from the Azeri side that the servicemen were arrested on "suspicion of spying".

The Defence Ministry dismissed such charges as "totally baseless" since both officers had until recently served in an air-force unit, withdrawn from Azerbaijan to Russia. They were in Kyurdamir on business to settle property matters.

The detained men are captain A. Morozov, the property service chief, and captain M. Kuznetsov, the chief of the fuel service in the air-force unit. There has been no word about the fate and whereabouts of the officers. The Russian Defence Ministry fears that they "were taken hostage" and regards such actions as "inadmissible".

Cuban Trade, Economic Agreement Approved

PM2008140992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

["Own Information" report under the "Official" subhead and the general heading: "Agreements, Treaties..."]

[Text] The Russian Government has approved an intergovernmental agreement with Cuba on trade and economic cooperation. It replaces the provisions of the Soviet-Cuban agreements regulating these matters. In this document the sides agree to grant one another most favored nation status in trade and economic ties as well as on all questions of civil navigation. Under this agreement, goods will be supplied and services provided on the basis of contracts concluded by Russian and Cuban participants in foreign trade relations. There is provision for mutual settlements to be made via clearing accounts in U.S. dollars.

Government Pays Partial Canadian Grain Debt

OW2008192092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry passed a resolution Thursday to eliminate part of its debt on Canadian grain shipments, Oleg Klimov, president of the joint-stock foreign trade company Exportkhleb told Interfax. "The Canadians were informed today," he said, of the Russian government's action, "and we hope that grain shipments to Russia will be renewed".

Canada announced late Monday [17 August] that grain shipments would be ended due to Russia's failure to meet its financial obligations. On August 14, Russia was overdue on payments amounting to $55 million.

According to Mr. Klimov the Finance Ministry could only pay part of the sum out of its current resources, but it made assurances that the question of due payments will be reviewed regularly to ensure a "satisfactory" state of payments with Canadian credits.

According to a five-year agreement, Canada exports some 5 million tons of grain to Russia each year, second only to the United States in the amount supplied.

Australia Suspends Wheat Deliveries Due to Debt

LD2008230192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] After Canada, Australia has suspended the delivery of grain to Russia due to delays in payments. According to the Australian Wheat Committee the debt of the Commonwealth of Independent States exceeds $50 million. The debt to Canada is 55 million. According to a spokesman for President Yeltsin, the government intends to pay the money back in the near future.

However, the Department for Grain Purchases said the (?attempts) have not produced the due result.

The Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations warned the government a long time ago about the possibility of such a turn of events.

This year Russia will have to import about 25 billion tonnes of grain to meet its needs.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 2230 GMT on 20 August, in a similar report, adds the following: "The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations confirmed to a BIZNES-TASS correspondent that the government's attempts to resolve this problem and to find sources of finance were not yet producing the necessary results. Long before this, the ministry warned the government about the situation which was arising and about the possible consequences."]

UN Official Urges Greater Russian Role

LD2108095792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0810 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations August 21 TASS—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali considers his forthcoming talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow in early September as an event of utmost importance.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Ghali said Russia plays an important role as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and should continue efforts to strengthen the United Nations Organisation and promote its new role in world politics.

Ghali said he will seek to find out Yeltsin's opinion on the role the U.N. could play with regards to the CIS states. He added that the U.N. plans to open representations in several CIS states which recently acquired U.N. membership to provide technical assistance to them and gather information about the situation in these republics.

Ghali said the U.N. will also send observers to Armenia and Azerbaijan. The United Nations Organisation plans to hold a human rights conference in 1993, a world conference on women in 1995 and other events, including celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the U.N. in 1995.

Ghali stressed that despite current difficulties, Russia should continue to play a leading role in the international arena.

"I will listen to the point of view of President Yeltsin on the 'Agenda for Peace' report which I have prepared" in accordance with the U.N. Security Council decision of January 31, 1992, Ghali said.

The U.N. chief stressed the need to learn to prevent conflicts at the earliest possible stage. He believes most conflicts on the planet are caused by people's despair before economic problems and social injustice.

Yeltsin To Unveil Plan To Solve Kuril Dispute

OW2108152892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1509 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 21 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday [21 August] he will unveil a plan to resolve the decades-old territorial dispute with Japan on September 14, the second day of his planned visit to Japan.

Yeltsin, who is scheduled to visit Japan for four days from September 13, told a news conference there are currently 12 plans up for discussion in Russia for a solution of the dispute over the four islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, indicating that a final plan has yet to be worked out.

Troops of the former Soviet Union seized the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan, and the Habomai islets in the closing days of World War II.

Tokyo maintains that return of the islands is a prerequisite for Japan's financial assistance for the revamping of the moribund Russian economy and the conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty.

During his stay in Japan, the Russian president is to meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on September 14 and 15.

Japan 'Spy Fever' Before Yeltsin's Visit Noted

PM2008135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Aug 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Correspondent Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Spy Fever in Japan on Eve of Russian President's Visit"]

[Text] Quoting YOMIURI, Japan's biggest newspaper, REUTER reports that "Japan's special services have exposed Russian spy Vladimir Davydov, who used to work as deputy trade representative in Tokyo."

A number of other Japanese newspapers have filled in the details: V. Davydov is 48 years old and secretly left the Land of the Rising Sun at the beginning of the year. Japanese counterintelligence has established that the Russian representative "cajoled" some Japanese man for two years, and one fine day he managed to obtain several thousand microchips and other computer parts from him. The Russian spy allegedly paid 1 million yen for them (or $7,800). According to REUTER, the parts he acquired can be used in Russia to create the very latest communications satellites. "The export of these goods to countries which the West still refers to as the 'Eastern bloc' is banned under Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] regulations," YOMIURI stresses.

Japanese Minister of Trade K. Watanabe, whose duty it is to monitor compliance with Cocom instructions, said: "If these reports are true, it is all very serious."

We acquainted representatives of Russia's foreign intelligence service with the REUTER reports. They know nothing about Vladimir Davydov: "He is not one of ours."

The Russian Foreign Ministry is amazed that 1,000 rare and expensive microchips could be obtained for a mere $7,800 in Japan.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations confirmed that Vladimir Davydov did indeed work for them until recently, although he was not an agent of the special services. V. Davydov did not "flee the country" in May, as Japanese newspapers claim, but calmly left Tokyo for Moscow at the end of his long tour of duty in Japan. The Japanese authorities did not bring any complaints against V. Davydov on the day of his departure, incidentally. He recently tendered his resignation and is now working in commercial structures in Moscow.

V. Davydov's former colleagues in the ministry, and also diplomats and members of the foreign intelligence service, incidentally, are unanimous that spy fever is being artificially whipped up in Japan on the eve of President B. Yeltsin's visit in September.

Commenting on YOMIURI's report that at least half of the 200 diplomats working in Tokyo are members of Russian special services, a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Personnel Department said that this is obviously an exaggeration. Such fabrications are the work of people who want to complicate relations between Russia and Japan.

Moscow, Tokyo Authorities Sign Agreement

LD2008191792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1057 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Tokyo Prefecture Governor Suzuki and head of the Tokyo City Assembly Kobayasi joined Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Council Leonid Belov today in signing an agreement on cooperation between the two capitals.

Speaking to reporters after the signing, the leading officials of the two cities noted that Moscow and Tokyo intend to cooperate in many areas including exchange of experience in managing urban economies, tax systems, health services and culture.

Yuriy Luzhkov thanked the Japanese colleagues for supplies of medicines and medical equipment to Moscow at a difficult time for the Russian capital.

Both sides spoke about their desire to pool efforts on the international arena to boost interaction among most capital cities for the benefit of their cities and countries.

Sobchak Called 'Well-Wisher' of UK Intelligence

PM2108132592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 2

[Correspondent Nikolay Volynskiy report: "Is A. Sobchak a British Intelligence Agent?"]

[Text] St. Petersburg—Is A. Sobchak a British intelligence agent? You involuntarily wonder this after studying one of the St. Petersburg mayor's recent ordinances "On Housing the Consulate General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland." In it A. Sobchak ordered the building which houses the artistic department of the Smolinskiy Rayon Children's and Young People's Creative Center to be vacated and leased to diplomats from Britain. What is to be done with the almost 1,500 children and adolescents who worked in 12 study groups and workshops here instead of loafing around in doorways? Where are the 46 teachers to work? The mayor's ordinance did not say anything about this, as if the children and the teachers do not exist.

The rayon administration which, in the course of its duties, is obliged to implement the city boss' ordinance, seems to have found a solution: Building new premises for the children, which should cost the municipal budget 55 million rubles at current prices, and housing the workshops for the time being in a young technicians' station. However, the city has no money and the station will hardly be able to house the choreographic, choral, and other creative workshops in its premises.

Another sensational aspect is that the building where the consulate general is about to move is right next to—almost 250 meters away from—the Smolnyy, where City Hall has its premises. The Smolnyy, equipped with powerful regional government systems and government communications, is under direct surveillance by foreign diplomats, among whom there will probably be professional intelligence officers. In these conditions obtaining valuable information from the Smolnyy is just a joy. I am not saying that A. Sobchak is working for the SIS [Special Intelligence Service], but a foreign intelligence service could be given such a gift only by one of its staffers or, at least, a well-wisher.

Commission To Faciliate Exchanges With Bulgaria

PM2008135992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Own Information report under the "Official" rubric and the general heading: "Agreements, Treaties..."]

[Text] The Russian and Bulgarian Governments have decided to conclude an agreement on forming an intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation with a view to more successfully implementing interstate accords, particularly the Treaty on Friendly Relations, and developiong business ties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Its tasks include examining proposals pertaining to long-term economic relations, developing a market infrastructure for bilateral relations, optimizing mutual transactions and trade conditions, and other problems. In addition, the commission will be tasked with ensuring legal, economic, and commercial conditions for business-like cooperation and enterprise and for cooperation in the scientific and technical field.

Ethnic Germans Seeking Resettlement in Argentina

PM2008124992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 2

[S. Zavorotnyy report: "I Want to Settle in Argentina"]

[Text] Buenos Aires—A dramatic letter on the fate of the 2 million Volga Germans has been sent to FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin from the Argentine capital by a delegation of Volga Germans headed by Genrikh Grout, chairman of the Provisional Council for the Restoration of the Volga German Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which is visiting here. The representatives of the Russian Germans have come to Buenos Aires not for pleasure but to find a place for resettlement from Russia. In an interview Grout told your correspondent:

"As you know, the talks on the restoration of the Volga Germans' autonomous republic are deadlocked.

"The hopelessness of the situation is making us take our fate into our own hands. Some 90 percent of the 2 million-strong German population are sitting on their suitcases intending to leave Russia for good. The Russian Germans' hope of rebirth in Russia has been crushed. This has been done deliberately and consciously by the democratic authorities in Moscow. We are opposed to our fate being settled behind our backs and insist on direct talks with Germany and Russia on our people's future because the Russian and German sides are equally to blame for the tragedy of the Volga Germans. Specifically, Germany should give financial help in resettling the Germans to Argentina, and Russia could at least help with transport. As for Argentina, during meetings with officials here we have found complete understanding and support. The Argentine authorities are prepared to accept the Volga Germans and are planning to allocate them land for agriculture, give them practical assistance, and help them learn the language. The plan is to settle them in areas which already have a high concentration of Argentine Germans, who number over 1 million.

"It grieves us to think that the Volga Germans have to leave Russia but we have no other choice."

Amur Bridge Plan Evokes Local Protests

PM2008093192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 92 First Edition p 7

[Correspondent Nikolay Belyy report under the rubric "China and Russia": "Bridge Over the 'Black Dragon'"]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk-Heihe—Russia and China, doomed by history and geography to be neighbors forever, were for a long time no more than adjoining lands which showed hardly any commercial interest in each other. Even the so-called "fraternal relations" in the 1950's did not change the situation much. The Amur region borders northern China for almost 2,000 versts. For both the state river is the Amur, or in Chinese Heilong Jiang, which in translation means the "Black Dragon." Until very recently the "Dragon" has tended to divide peoples with such different cultures, traditions, and languages. The legacy of this division, which I think is not based on prejudice, is that to this day the border territories are poorly developed, there is an economic and transport vacuum on both sides, there are no bridges or border crossings, and the border infrastructures of two countries with a similar economic profile are poorly geared to each other's markets.

In the last two to three years the situation has begun to change rapidly, through the "fault" of border trade ties, which exert an ever-increasing influence on the development of Russian-Chinese relations as a whole. During this time trade turnover with the PRC has tripled, increasing 10 times in the border region. Some 190,000 tonnes of freight were allowed through the Blagoveshchensk customs in 1990, but the figure was already 280,000 tonnes in 1991. The number of passengers (including tourists) was 41,000 and 284,000 respectively. This is despite the fact that as of the beginning of the year there were outstanding applications to allow goods across the Amur amounting to 1.5 million tonnes; the constraining factors which the river imposes are clear.

It was in this way that an idea was born which yesterday seemed out of the ordinary but which today is almost commonplace—establishing a high-capacity two-way border road crossing in the region of Blagoveshchensk on the Russian side and Heihe on the Chinese side. The venerable father Amur has never seen the like before. The bridge will permit us to increase goods turnover to 3 million tonnes a year and passenger traffic to 500,000 people. Goods from Russia and the CIS countries, and, we expect, Eastern Europe, will go to continental China and then south to the countries of the Asian and Pacific region, and vice versa. This transcontinental installation is fully capable of bringing the continents together.

Specialists from St. Petersburg, Khabarovsk, and the Russian Academy of Sciences are participating in elaborating the joint project. The client is the "Amurasso" foreign economic association. It is proposed to construct the bridge as a commercial venture, creating a joint-stock company from Amur enterprises and organizations under all sorts of ownership, with the Chinese side also participating in the construction and bearing the expenses 50/50. The bridge would not only be able to work for everybody collectively but for each individual; there is a plan to issue special shares for inhabitants of the "Dragon's" left and right banks.

While the Chinese are ready to start implementing the project, the Russian side, the initiator of the idea of linking the two banks, has stalled its response, and, to all appearances, will do so for a long time. The point is that the construction project's organizers—Blagoveshchensk city hall and Amur Oblast Administration—have unexpectedly run up against opposition from several people's deputies and a section of Blagoveshchensk's inhabitants. The Chinese are ready to work, but we are ready to hold rallies. Our neighbors quickly calculated that the bridge, and also the regulated movement of trucks along the international freeway outside Heihe, will certainly improve the ecological situation in the city opposite Blagoveshchensk. The main geophysical observatory of the Russian Federation Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has also made calculations here, however. Aleksandr Tsarev, leader of the expedition to study atmospheric pollution, asserted at a recent conference at the oblast administration to which all interested parties were invited (they did not even forget horticulturalists) that the removal of transit vehicles to a bypass around the city will make it possible to considerably lower the level of air pollution in Blagoveshchensk, but this constitutes no argument as far as several particularly zealous opponents of the project, who incidentally have no viewpoint which is in any way scientifically based, are concerned. Local "independent ecologists," mostly from the local teacher training institute, claim that things will be worse, period, but they take no account of the fact that the city is living in poverty while, winter and summer, thousands of wheeled and tracklaying vehicles from virtually all districts of Russia and the CIS (increasingly big vehicles, including quarry trucks, BelAZ trucks, which have suddenly "taken off" on the other side and which are capable of instantly hitting the city's lungs on this side) travel across the city to the customs house from various directions under their own steam or on flatcars.

Specialists, however, have elaborated another two possibilities on top of the contentious initial one. Sites both up the Amur from Blagoveshchensk and about 200 km downstream of it have been examined. The first option does not suit the Chinese side—for reasons of safety in navigation—and the second does not remove the problem of transport communications between the two border territories and the two adjacent cities, as the seasonal crossing points across the river, which inflict irreversible damage on the Far Eastern Mississippi, as people still call the Amur, will be kept just the same. Moreover, it is expected that the first option will be the cheapest to implement—for a bridge 970 meters long its cost will be around 22 million Swiss francs. All barter deals are calculated in this currency. The bridge is also a deal which no one is venturing to value in our own rubles because of galloping inflation.

PRC's Tian Jiyun Begins Tour of Far East

LD2008181192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—A Chinese Government delegation led by Tian Jiyun, vice premier of China's council of state, set out on a tour of Russia's Far East on Thursday [20 August]. The delegation attended the first session of the Sino-Russian intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The session was held in Moscow on August 18 and 19.

Principled accords on the development of bilateral cooperation were reached during talks with the commission's Russian side headed by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

A bilateral protocol as well as an agreement on principles for the sending of Chinese citizens to and their employment at the enterprises, amalgamations and organisations of Russia were signed as a result of the session.

The Chinese delegation met Russia's Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar on Wednesday.

During the next five days Tian Jiyun and his party intend to visit Vladivostok and Blagoveshchensk and meet with representatives of the authorities and business community of the region.

Commentary on PRC's Southeast Asia Policy

OW2008132192 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 0600 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Commentary by station observer Kruchevsky's on China's policy toward Southeast Asia; from the "Asian Affairs" program]

[Text] During his talks with the Malaysian defense minister, Chinese Premier Li Peng confirmed the following views: It seems that China wants to fill the military and political vacuum recently formed in Southeast Asia. Please listen to our station observer Kruchevsky's commentary:

As a matter of fact, since the Soviet Union's disintegration, Russia has refused to play the role of a superpower and the United States has readjusted its military and political policies on Southeast Asia. There have been changes in the situation in Southeast Asia. It is not really a vacuum—it merely means more active roles for the Southeast Asian countries which are able to formulate their own current policies completely independently.

Under such circumstances, China does not want to lag behind in precisely proclaiming its stance and plans. Such moves are perfectly understandable. Perhaps no one will doubt that China will really play a significant and constructive role in the course of new changes in the situation in Southeast Asia. Its historic, economic, and political relations with the Southeast Asian countries will undoubtedly accelerate the development of a new order in Southeast Asia.

However, the problem is that given the complicated situation in the region, no one is definitely sure of the specific difference between constructive force playing an active role and hegemonic political power waging its preliminary fights.

I believe that China will continually encounter this problem in the next few years. Therefore, while pursuing its foreign policies, it will need the greatest wisdom and a sensitive political alertness. Its diplomatic actions must be solid and concrete. Recently, there has been no loophole in the Chinese leaders' foreign statements, especially regarding the Southeast Asian region. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen recently made a speech on the issue. Two days later, Premier Li Peng reiterated China's persistently peaceful policies toward Southeast Asia.

Nevertheless, observers from various countries still insisted on connecting the above statements with China's attempts to refute various claimants after the Nansha Islands' situation worsened. As everyone knows, many countries want to claim ownership of this area which has oil deposits. Besides China, they also include Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, and Taiwan. However, in the beginning of 1992, China adopted a law claiming all of the Nansha Islands as its territory. In May 1992, it signed an agreement with a U.S. firm to explore the deposit conditions of oil and natural gas in the neighboring continental shelf.

This situation has unnerved the conferees at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' [ASEAN] foreign ministerial meeting in Manila. China has rejected the possibility that concerned parties hold an international meeting to study the dispute. Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that China was ready to seek peaceful solutions for Southeast Asia and for certain controversial issues. At present, we do not know what will actually happen. However, such ambiguous behavior may lead to distortions and accusations and even provoke malacious hostile slanders. That would be quite natural.

The Beijing government's official statements often criticized the United States and Russia, saying that the two countries have not yet totally abandoned their wishes of being superpowers while pursuing their policies. Yes, it is definitely possible that China may consider all the shortcomings of pursuing such policies to avoid repeating these mistakes as much as possible. To become a major power, it will have to make many commitments.

Political Issues

Leaders Commemorate 1991 Coup Anniversary

Gaydar Praises Russian Spirit

LD2008212592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1727 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Speech by Yegor Gaydar, acting prime minister of the Russian Federation, at a rally devoted to the anniversary of the 1991 August coup events at the Russian White House in Moscow—live]

[Text] Fellow citizens! [chants from crowd] The misfortune and weakness of those who in August pushed the country to the verge of catastrophe lay in the fact that they always despised their people. They were deeply convinced that they had just to bang their fist on the table, they just had to utter some threats, and everybody would toe the line, everybody would agree to live in a camp again, to be silent once again, to demean themselves before the boss again.

Those three days in August should have taught them something! They took power from the old party nomenclatura. They broke the old repressive machine, the old repressive machine. You must realize clearly that they were unable to break the base, the foundations, of that totalitarian regime that existed and that paralyzed the forces of our country. This could not be done even during those three great days that we lived through last August.

Perhaps I have a better idea than many of how great is the strength of those who sincerely wish for the defeat of Russian democracy, of Russian reforms, of how our attempts to change society dissolve into thin air, of the resistance that our efforts to deepen the reform are coming up against.

Yes, after all, these people have not left! They have just given it up temporarily, profoundly convinced that they will return soon. They knew well the state the country was in when they handed it over to the young and inexperienced democracy. They knew that they handed it over with its economy in ruins, without a cent of hard currency, ungovernable, and with its national economy in chaos and disentegrating.

They were profoundly convinced that when it came up against the need to make most difficult decisions in this situation, Russian democracy would instantly come begging and then they would come to power once again and the people once again would flock around the beloved chief of their clique.

Well, the most important result of this year, it seems to me, is that they made a mistake once again. They once again failed to understand their people. They failed to realize that the people are much more clever than they think and that their cheap and false propaganda is incapable of deceiving anyone. Together we realize that no matter how difficult our path, no matter how serious the mistakes we make, the difficulties we are going through are the only path to the future. They do not believe in the future of Russia. They believe and think only about bygone imperial grandeur.

We are convinced that that this is wrong. Russia does have a future! We are not doomed to be destitute! We are not doomed to be second rate! We are not doomed to be beggars! We can make our country rich and successful! Not a great deal is needed for that. People should be given the opportunity to work and to earn money, to develop the forces, initiative, and potential of our country, not break it or crush it!

I am absolutely convinced that no matter how we are divided over discussions on the current economic problems, the crux of the matter lies not in these divisions today! There is one thing that is important—reform. Democracy and Russia are indivisible from now on. This year you have been defending the reforms and defending democracy and have not allowed them to be crushed.

I am convinced that this is how things will be in the future, too. The hopes of those who are hoping to turn Russia back to the past with a firm hand are not destined to be realized. The future lies with us! [applause, cheers, chants from crowd]

Burbulis Congratulates Russians

LD2008211492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1720 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Speech by Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Government, at a rally devoted to the anniversary of the 1991 August coup events at the Russian White House in Moscow—live]

[Text] Citizens of Russia: The president of the Russian Federation, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, greets you, the defenders of Russia's freedom, who one year ago gathered around the White House to resist the totalitarian plague and to fight for our worthy future. Greetings to you, and thank you! [applause, cheers, chants]

May all those who predict defeat for Russia's democrats writhe in convulsions of falsehood and anger. This will never happen. [cheers, applause] May the resurgent and free Russian spirit triumph, the spirit which on this square one year ago received a unique boost, a noble upsurge of freedom, honor, and dignity for the Russian state. [applause, cheers] Let them envy us! [Burbulis starts rhythmical chant of "Rossiya, Rossiya, Rossiya", which the throng continues]

Let all those who doubted the right of the Russian citizen to uphold his independence, his sovereignty, and his pride envy all of us. We accomplished this, and we will never surrender it to anyone. [applause, cheers] Let all those who exploit our present difficulties to predict many misfortunes be assured that we will cope with our problems, and we will prove that the Russian people are worthy of their worthy history. [applause, cheers] Let Vladimir [Usov], Dmitriy [Komar], and Ilya [Krichevskiy], who sacrificed their lives in the heat of the moment, for our right to commemorate this difficult and agonizing year right now, sleep peacefully. They, together with you, were our saviors. We will be devoted to them all our lives. [calls of "We will be" from the crowd, applause]

We are confident that Russian reality, that Russia's reforms are in the reliable hands of the Russian people. All those to whom you have now entrusted the reins of power and administration synchronize their actions every day, every hour, every minute, with your moods, with your aspirations, with your wishes. Thank you, and greetings! [applause, cheers] We will rise above that anger and that hatred which is directed at us by our opponents and adversaries. Today let us try to understand them while not resigning ourselves to their folly, to their narrow-mindedness, to their anger. Let us invite them to cooperate with us, to have a common cause with us, to work together with us.

May Russia's nobility and eminence of spirit be victorious. A toast to you, fellow Russian citizens! [applause, cheers, rhythmic chant of "Rossiya," which Burbulis picks up and leads]

Khasbulatov Reflects on Year

LD2008200992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Interview with Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov by journalist Rasul Mikaylov; date and place not given; from the "Russian Parliamentary Herald" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mikaylov] Ruslan Imranovich, I remember from my own experience that, in spite of the rush of events at the time, I was thinking what it would be like in a few months' time or in a year. How did you see today a year ago? A year later, how does the real situation coincide with what you were thinking then?

[Khasbulatov] I must say that, naturally, we were thinking....[changes thought] We were offering resistance in order to build the future, not resistance for the sake of resistance. To be honest, of course, many, very many expectations have not come true. First of all, I would like to say unequivocally that, of course, least of all did we dream of and want the disintegration of the Soviet Union. I would like to remind you that, practically, we were the first to ratify the Union treaty after serious debate. If you remember, we spent the whole day debating it, but finally we formed a state delegation headed by the president and gave this delegation the authority to sign the Union treaty, with certain details and certain reservations. On the whole, everyone was astounded; everyone thought that the Russian leadership was against the Union treaty. On the contrary, we were a cementing factor in a future union on a new foundation. That is why during the resistance period we wanted-....[changes thought] We defended not only the law, but the future structure in the framework of this Union treaty.

Of course, this putsch frightened us to death, let's be frank—I have already mentioned this before—at the congress, as well as after it.

Let's take union republics as an example. Almost right after this putsch centrifugal forces started speeding up and union republics, frightened to death, embarked on the road of expanding their independence and their independent development. Of course, during this period both the USSR leadership and....[changes thought] Perhaps we should have accelerated the development with regard to creating a confederation association, but we had our own Russian confederation option, with which I dealt directly. It was published, if you remember, in MEGAPOLIS, and it received quite wide circulation in Union republics as well. Then we proposed to Gorbachev: Let's make full use of it. But he was a maniacal supporter of the original option. The circumstances, however, had changed. They should have been reacted to in an adequate way.

However, I would not like to put all the blame on Gorbachev alone. I think that we have not been sufficiently active here either; that is evident. One way or another, this process of separation, this centrifugal process, began to go faster and culminated in the disappearance of the Soviet Union. This is, of course, a big tragedy, there is no doubt about that. Even now I still think—even though a considerable period of time has elapsed—that we still need to turn our minds gradually to confederative principles of one kind or another. Life shows this to be true from the economic, cultural, and ethnic points of view. Millions of our people who emigrated from Russia live in former republics. Former republics are experiencing tremendous economic difficulties in connection with the rupture of economic ties. It seems to me that the original euphoria centered around—how should I put it—independent development, which is currently becoming a thing of the past as far as many people are concerned.

The main thing is that it is not just those in charge that I am talking about here. We are observing a very strong desire on the part of peoples—now independent states which formerly were Union republics—toward some form of unification. In this context the CIS has, of course, played its part. You now know that the first plenary session of the interparliamentary assembly of the Commonwealth countries is opening in Bishkek in September. This is a very serious undertaking, strengthening in some way the large number of agreements and treaties signed by the presidents and heads of governments in the areas of economic development, political consultations, armed forces, and cultural cooperation. Underpinning these by parliamentary procedures will, I think, be a very serious stimulus for some form of integration.

You know, I am by no means an adherent of intimidating leaders of other independent states. I am by no means calling for the restoration of the Soviet Union. Still, life demonstrates that some kind of union is vital here. It was no accident that Nursultan Nazarbayev talked about this. I met him during my vacation in Sochi. We discussed these problems for a very long time. Other leaders are basically also inclined to think that some kind of form which is more steady than the present CIS is, of course, essential.

This does not mean that we should get rid of the CIS and build something else. We have always been accustomed to doing this. On the contrary, we should reinforce this CIS. Through its reinforcement, perhaps through some kind of mechanisms purely in terms of coordination of economic relations, we will arrive at this kind of community. After all, take a look, the whole world is integrating and unifying. Western Europe essentially exists as a confederation, although this word isn't used, but in actual fact this is the most classic type of confederation. I am talking about political coordination, about economic and monetary coordination, and so forth. I am talking about freedom of movement. There are no borders at all. We are attempting to set up borders between our countries. There they are abandoning these borders and have essentially left them behind. What has happened in the vast areas of the Soviet Union contradicts natural historical and worldwide trends. We have tried and tried, and it has not worked.

The deterioration of people's economic situations is a characteristic of all the former republics. Incidentally, look no further than the Baltic countries for an illustration of the greatest deterioration of the economic situation. They have taken up a very harsh stand of isolationism from everything that existed before and was formerly called the Soviet Union. What has it led to? We can see for ourselves. As for the living standard of these people, it was considerably higher than the average living standard throughout the Union. Enough money was allocated there, much more than, say, to Central Asia or Russia. Russia was, in fact, getting the least investment. Look at the very difficult situation which the north, the Far East, and the Urals found themselves in, not to mention Central Russia and the North Caucasian region. After all, those serious problems and complications, in the North Caucasus, for example, are fueled by poverty and backwardness. Extremists, Dudayev for instance, use the slogan of: We are being oppressed. Yes, of course, but who oppresses you? People live badly everywhere but this slogan has a very serious impact.

We were extorting resources from Russia and transferring them not just to other countries but to other republics, fundamentally bleeding dry Russia's remote places by this action. This does not really matter. Almost all the former republics have now experienced the bitter taste of defeat, especially in the sphere of economic reforms; the bitter taste of defeats due to not knowing how to carry out a political process, including in the international arena. They have seen troubles which face those people who are already separated and who allegedly exist in different states. When relations and family members of millions of people find themselves in different states, naturally it does not coincide with leaders who are trying to depart from the objective and inevitable integration processes.

This is why it seems to me that sober-minded political thinking should make us realize, in the year since last August, that it is essential to adopt a calmer, more evenhanded approach toward some kind of a new union. This is just one aspect.

The second aspect is this: It seems to me that a year has now elapsed since the putsch. We must now stop this bleating, pardon the expression, about the reds and the brownshirts brigade. We must now halt the attempts to introduce class-based divisions again, or divisions between enemies and nonenemies. We have no enemies in our country, in our Russian Federation. We are all citizens of this country. Various people have differing viewpoints. Incidentally, the strength of democratic ideas is that they acknowledge that everyone's own opinions of one kind or another have a right to exist within the constitutional framework. You may recall the famous saying of one philosopher and educator who used to say: I do not like your views; I do not like your views at all; they are unacceptable to me, but I will give my life for you to have a right, to be free to express these views. This, then, is democracy.

In our country, it is this way: Ah, so you now disagree? You and I are democrats, but you do not agree; this means you are antidemocratic; this means you belong to the reds and brownshirts brigade. Such primitive, vulgar ideas, such vulgar trends which demean us before the world community should not develop in our society. Hence, it is necessary to strive for civic peace and civic consensus. It is necessary to arrive at some kind of common approach to resolving our problems, including economic problems. Evidently we must alter the direction of our economic reforms, too. Thank God there is now an understanding of these issues on the part of the government and especially on the part of the president. All in all, it seems to me that we do have opportunities to rectify the situation.

In this sense, it seems to me, our parliament must do very serious work—very serious—at the session that opens in September. We should strengthen the legislative basis for deepening the reforms. In a number of cases we will likely have to reconsider our own laws. It is not by accident that we are reproached about the fact that our laws are not always effective. You know, to be honest, this is objective. Our compatriots should not forget that a real parliament in Russia has existed for only two years. An independent parliament has been in progress for somewhat less than a year. We came without sufficient experience in all this business. Of course we make mistakes and we have frustrations, but we try to learn and we try to take into consideration the true interests and demands of our people. We try to take their moods into account. We should continue doing this in the future more effectively. We should cooperate more effectively and on a more qualitative basis with the president and the government.

The budget is one example. The parliament—and nobody else—is responsible for the budget. It is we who should monitor the execution of this budget. It is we who should cut the budget expenditure in cases when, for example, we think that expenditure is excessive somewhere. On the contrary, we must look at where to increase expenditure, for example in the social sphere. Of course, it is necessary to support industry. It is necessary to support peasants' farms and agriculture on the whole, the intelligentsia, culture, the forgotten sphere of public health, social provision—we have holes everywhere. We cannot say that only the government is responsible for all this. We are responsible for all these problems to no less a degree. Therefore, I do not share responsibilities, as if somebody should bear responsibilities and you and we have nothing to do with it. [sentence as heard] Of course, state power is the parliament and the president and the government. Therefore, as a state power we should feel responsible for failures as well as achievements.

Official Defends Investigation

PM2008155792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 First Edition p 5

[Interview with Russian Deputy General Prosecutor Yevgeniy Lisov, chief of August 1991 coup investigation group, by Sergey Kornilov; date and place not given: "Yevgeniy Lisov: We Always Try To Distance Ourselves from Politics"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Interest in the investigation and upcoming trial of the organizers of the antigovernment [as published] conspiracy has intensified in connection with the anniversary of the August events. The recent statement by lawyer G. Padva to the effect that he is giving up his defense of A. Lukyanov, as he and his client had evidently planned, has inflamed public passons even more. The letters Padva and Lukyanov wrote to one another contain accusations against both President Boris Yeltsin and the investigation group for "unceremoniously flouting the law" at the preliminary investigation stage. Our correspondent interviewed Russian Deputy General Prosecutor Yevgeniy Lisov, chief of the investigation group in the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] case.

[Kornilov] Yevgeniy Kuzmich, from B. Yeltsin's recent utterance to the effect that "We have decided...." you could conclude that the president is interfering in the investigation process. How would you comment on his words? Did the president, or anyone else having nothing to do with the investigation into the SCSE case, really take part in the decision to change the detention order for V. Starodubtsev?

[Lisov] I state authoritatively that no one, apart from the investigation and General Prosecutor Stepankov, participated in the adoption of the decision to release Starodubtsev from custody until the trial. There were no telephone calls involving instructions on how to carry out the investigation work, nor was anyone called into the offices of representatives of the Russian authorities for this purpose. Meetings are being held between the president and the general prosecutor, of course, but they are about matters that have nothing to do with the investigation into the SCSE case. They are mainly issues concerning material and technical provision for the Russian prosecutor's office.

[Kornilov] In its work, is the investigation into the SCSE case representing the interests of the USSR?

[Lisov] We started our work on the SCSE case when the Union was still in existence, on the orders of the USSR Prosecutor's Office. Before the disintegration of the USSR, we charged the coup organizers under Article 1 of the USSR Law "On Responsibility for State Crimes" and Article 64 of the RSFSR Criminal Code. The SCSE's resolutions involved encroachments on the full panoply of power in the country and all the Union republics including Russia. The situation has changed a great deal in the past year, and we intend to renew the investigation in the near future and review the wording of the charge, removing Article 1 of the Union law from it. I am sure that this stage of the investigation will not take much time.

[Kornilov] During the investigation, were criminal proceedings instituted against anyone else who was party to the conspiracy?

[Lisov] Two other people: Boldin and Grushko. However, their state of health is preventing us from starting the investigation work, and the case against them has been suspended. As soon as the doctors provide a positive report, the investigation will be renewed. Ageyev, Kryuchkov's first deputy, and Achalov, Yazov's first deputy, were also subject to criminal proceedings. Ageyev is ill. As for Achalov, who is a Russian people's deputy, to our bewilderment, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet did not agree to criminal proceedings' being instituted against him, and we were forced to close that case.

[Kornilov] We know that Union departments such as the Prosecutor's Office, the KGB, MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and others sent telegrams to the localities prescribing support for the SCSE. Have proceedings been instituted against anyone from the leadership of these departments? The military must also evidently be added to this list. For example, General Kalinin, who was appointed commandant of Moscow by the SCSE; his orders resulted in human suffering and death.

[Lisov] The investigation examined these facts but did not find sufficient grounds stipulated by law to file a charge against them. At first sight it seems that they were clearly accomplices of the conspirators, but, when you get through to the heart of the matter from a legal viewpoint, everything turns out to be both more complex and more subtle. We came to the conclusion that these people were not acting as organizers or participants in the coup, but that they were only carrying out the orders of the SCSE. Fools always go to extremes. They were in a hurry to win favor.

[Kornilov] You get the impression that apart from Article 64 of the Criminal Code, no other articles remain in Russian legislation under which to institute proceedings against the participants in the conspiracy. Reports are coming in from all over the country to the effect that people who supported the SCSE in August 1991 are still in their old posts and are imperturbably—with the participation of their former like-minded party colleagues from the law enforcement organs (including the prosecutor's office)—carrying out reprisals against those who feel justly outraged at their actions during those days.

[Lisov] I know what you mean. However, operating within the framework of the law, we can either accuse someone of a criminal offense or not accuse them if there are no grounds. Everything else comes under the competence of other institutions. We try to distance ourselves from any politics.

[Kornilov] Did the prosecutor's office submit reports to other institutions concerning the unlawful actions of individuals or organizations during the investigation?

[Lisov] Yes, we did that. Notably we sent information to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court concerning the anticonstitutional actions of CPSU structures at various levels during the SCSE period.

[Kornilov] From what you are saying, it looks as though it is the leaders of the conspiracy who should bear criminal responsibility for the death of the three defenders of the White House in Moscow. Is that the case?

[Lisov] The death of three heroic guys who were defending the White House was the tragic result of bringing troops into Moscow—the most serious consequence of the plotters' actions. Although the law, which stipulates responsibility for the organization of a conspiracy with the aim of seizing power, does not require obligatory responsibility for the consequences of a conspiracy, we do intend to do something about this once the charge has been specified more precisely, because anything else would simply be unfair.

[Kornilov] Do you share the opinion, expressed by many, that former party apparatus officials should not work in Russian Federation executive power structures following August 1991?

[Lisov] I cannot say unequivocally: No, they cannot. We had very few, if any employees who came to the prosecutor's office straight from party organs. There are none left at all now, since the work carried out right after last August. Most often what happened was that prosecutor's office workers were sent to work in the party apparatus for a certain period of time and then they returned promoted. You cannot say that they completely lost their own profession during the time spent working in the party organs.

[Kornilov] However, the party established firm ties this way, which are still in operation today. In NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, your deputy A. Frolov presents things this way: "If something becomes clear in a trial, then popular opinion among citizens says: For sure they've all been bribed over there." Do you think that the law enforcement organs in Russia never make unfair decisions? Or are there so few that it is not worth mentioning them? Maybe, although it is not necessarily a question of "bribery," people operate in the interests of groups, clans, parties, the mafia—is there really nothing like that going on?

[Lisov] Unfortunately there is. Nevertheless, I must say that the specialists in the prosecutor's office and other law enforcement organs have changed a great deal in the past year. They have started operating in a more relaxed way, without worrying about what the "higher-ups" will say. There will always be a clash between political, economic, and even personal interests in society. You cannot completely eliminate their influence or attempts to involve the law enforcement organs in them right away. You need years of effort by the whole of society to do that.

Deputy Minister on CIS Ties, Resignation

OW2008164992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview for DP [Diplomatic Panorama] Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Fyodor Shelov-Kovedyayev who is back in office after his vacation made it clear that he has no intention of resigning, even though he doesn't rule out such a possibility in the future.

At the moment F. Shelov-Kovedyayev is concluding work on a report which analyses Russia's strategy and tactics toward the CIS countries. His job in the Foreign Ministry is to monitor Russia's relations with the former Soviet republics. His report will be submitted to the Ministry's leadership. F. Shelov-Kovedyayev hopes that Russia's parliament and top-level officials, including President Boris Yeltsin, will read his report.

In fact, the 100-page document is a "collective work". It sums up "a colossal number of observations" of Russian diplomats dealing with problems connected with the relationship between Russia and CIS countries. Besides, the report will include analytic materials prepared by prominent Russian researchers as well as by different institutions and organizations.

According to F. Shelov-Kovedyayev, his report presents "an integrated picture" of problems that exist in Russia's relationship with CIS countries, and the ways to resolve them. "These problems should be resolved by means of peaceful and diplomatic negotiations". Precisely such negotiations made it possible to begin to settle the conflicts in South Ossetia and Trans-Dniestria. "What yielded positive results were diplomatic methods, not the use of force".

F. Shelov-Kovedyayev believes that because of "Russia's hard internal situation the instruments of exerting influence on the development of events in the CIS countries and in the world at large are on the whole weaker than previously and not as numerous as we would wish them to be". Nevertheless they do exist, and they should be used appropriately and timely in order to avoid "impulsive actions reminiscent of one-sided pressure". "Our partners and the world community as a whole do not understand actions that fail to fit the framework of international law; such actions weaken Russia's positions. This leads to compromises that "would not have been even considered, if impulsive actions had not been taken".

In the meantime many people view the former Soviet republics as "not quite foreign countries". F. Shelov-Kovedyayev disagrees with them. According to him, success can be scored only by the use of approaches that exclude double standards, the more so as the world community views Russia "as a state with a responsibility for the former Soviet republics". It would like Russia to realize its responsibility for a stable development of events in the space comprising the former USSR. "All this is a reality, not just our ambitions".

"If under the future circumstances these considerations become unrealizable or fail to be accepted" F. Shelov-Kovedyayev might resort to "such an extreme measure, as resignation". "This would be neither a demarche nor a gesture of insulted person". "This won't be a matter of Shelov-Kovedyayev's collision with someone or thwarted ambitions".

F. Shelov-Kovedyayev is inclined to view his possible resignation as an attempt to protect the interests of Russia's Foreign Ministry which he joined more than 9 months ago. The first deputy foreign minister intends to seek "a respectful attitude to the Foreign Ministry and to the professionals it employs on the part of "other government structures, public figures and political formations".

As for the rumours that F. Shelov-Kovedyayev already had to resign, he believes that they must have emerged "spontaneously, without connection with anything at all". The first deputy foreign minister believes that "no one in the Foreign Ministry has ambitions in connection with his person."

Rutskoy Rebuffs Speculation on Yeltsin's Removal

OW2108012392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian vice-president's press service has issued a statement following yesterday's publication by the Moscow-based newspaper, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, headed "What happens if the Russian president goes?" A study on Article 121-11 of the Russian Federation's constitution was commissioned by the Party of Economic Freedom, PEF.

The statement says that the publication timed to coincide with August 20, the day of commemorating those who died in the struggle for democratic reform, is an indication of immorality both by those who commissioned and wrote it. It says that the arguments and forecasts offered by the writers of the article, including the possibility of replacing the president on health grounds are unjustified and unproductive, let alone indecent and offensive in respect of the democratically-elected president and vice president of the Russian Federation. Instead of seeking greater solidarity and public consensus in today's highly-polarized society, runs the statement, by publishing such an article, PEF leaders will only rock the political boat by seeking to split the Russian society which rallied around President Yeltsin in the unforgettable month of August, 1991. The statement accuses the PEF of being engaged in political gambling instead of offering constructive proposals on economic reform and genuine economic freedom in Russia. It says that by trying to attract public attention in such ways, PEF has again showed its political immaturity.

The article indicates that the PEF leadership, and Mr. Borovoi personally are trying to continue fishing in troubled waters, says the statement.

It is doubtful, concludes the statement, that by such approaches, the PEF will be able to find its place among those forces which call for a constructive reform based on social consensus.

Minister Kozyrev's Status, Future Pondered

PM2008154992 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No. 32, Aug 92 (signed to press 4 Aug 92) pp 8-10

[Leonid Mlechin article under the "Corridors of Power" rubric: "Who Is Pushing Minister Kozyrev Toward Resignation?"]

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev's statement about the possibility of a new putsch and that Russia's special services are misleading Boris Yeltsin had a major impact also because nobody had expected such boldness from the foreign minister.

It is more than likely that even he himself found this surprising. However, having crossed the Rubicon, according to those close to him, he was not frightened and even sensed some relief.

Brought up in the spirit of traditional diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev invariably repeats that he is only carrying out the president's wishes. Following his statement about the likelihood of a coup d'etat, Andrey Kozyrev transformed himself from a diplomat into a politician.

Replacements Are Waiting

Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has been simply underestimated.

He never considered himself to be a strong and independent figure like Eduard Shevardnadze, for example.

When Yeltsin appointed, as his adviser, the famous diplomat Yuliy Vorontsov, who used to be Shevardnadze's first deputy, many people decided that Kozyrev's replacement was being groomed.

However, observers mistook wishful thinking for reality. That was one of the rather skillful tactical moves which Yeltsin clearly inherited from Gorbachev. Kozyrev's opponents were pleased that the highly experienced Vorontsov was emerging as a counterweight to Kozyrev, but in reality, everything remained as before. There are no grounds to assume that Yuliy Vorontsov is playing a definitive role in elaborating the foreign policy course.

In any event, no diplomat of the older generation is likely to replace Kozyrev.

How would the 63-year old Vorontsov, for example, fit in with Gaydar's "boys' team"?

The "boys" realize that they are strangers in the anthill of power, that they need one another, and that they have to stick together. They are surrounded by experienced queen ants incapable of accepting the idea that some youngsters have overtaken them on the rungs of power.

Of course, the team's cohesion should not be overestimated. Following the congress, Yeltsin yielded to pressure from the directors' lobby and sacked Vladimir Lopukhin, fuel and energy minister, from Gaydar's team, replacing him with a tried and tested functionary from among the former Union ministers.

The "boys" parted company with Lopukhin, which indicates that there are limits to their adherence to principles. However, as far as it can be judged, the attempt to sack Kozyrev is perceived by the young ministers as an attempt against the team as a whole, an attempt to disrupt the policy of reforms as a whole. The domino principle is likely to operate here: Push one over, and all the rest will collapse.

There are no diplomatic heavyweights breathing down Andrey Kozyrev's neck. It is felt that new politicians—Lukin, Stankevich, Ambartsumov—are likely to claim the minister's post.

A Determined Teddy Bear

First impressions are deceptive. This young man resembling a teddy bear, with the manners of an all-around top performer, soft and—as is to be expected from a career diplomat—tending to avoid conflicts, and inclined toward compromise, is in fact quite a tough character.

Journalists who traveled with Kozyrev to Nagorno-Karabakh and Afghanistan saw his courage for themselves. He also lacks the deskbound cowardice typical of apparatus functionaries.

He has recently come under strong pressure from all sides. Like any other man, he succumbs occasionally. However, if he is convinced that he is right, then he firmly sticks to his guns. He can even be rather stubborn.

In contrast with Nikolay Ryzhkov, who could be brought to tears by public criticism, Andrey Kozyrev does not treat it as the end of the world. The stronger the pressure upon him, the more firmly he resists.

He coolly stood up before the Supreme Soviet, where deputies claimed that Russia's Foreign Ministry serves anyone but Russia itself.

He honorably withstood the Security Council investigation, at which the country's top leadership, including the president, displeased with him for washing dirty linen in public, took him to task for his interview with IZVESTIYA.

He responded calmly to newspaper articles which hastened to report his resignation—if not right now, then just before Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan at the latest.

It looks as if it might be premature to write Andrey Kozyrev off.

Yeltsin should not sack Kozyrev even out of superstition. After all, the putsch of which Shevardnadze warned did take place. It is not worth tempting fate to find out whether Andrey Kozyrev was also right....

It would have been easier to send Kozyrev into retirement earlier—it would have meant just the replacement of one official by another. Kozyrev's replacement now would look like a switch of foreign policy course, which would hardly be acceptable to Yeltsin now.

Has the minister made a smart move?

This is rather confirmation of the thesis that moral policy is more reliable and more effective.

Argument About White Gloves

Why is Minister Kozyrev under attack?

Because he takes a certain stand: Russia's path to the civilized world is blocked unless it adopts a civilized behavior in international affairs (including relations with the former Soviet republics).

Great-power champions and national socialists dislike his intellectual manners, his liberal views, his level of thinking, and his approach toward problems.

His liberal line—based on observance of the norms of international law and universal human values, and on natural alliance with democratic states—is one of the few gains of reform which is being firmly maintained. And the opponents of reform intend to seize it.

While Shevardnadze was a minister, he was also attacked for "concessions to the West," for "sailing in the United States' wake," for "lack of independence."

At that time the critics of the Foreign Ministry called themselves Communists, now they call themselves patriots, but basically they are the selfsame people and, for simplicity's sake, they all can be described as national socialists.

It is pointless trying to explain to them that the Western (from Canada to Japan and from Iceland to Australia in geographic terms) democratic states cannot but be, the natural allies of Russian democracy.

Moscow's orientation toward universally recognized democratic values cannot but lead to unanimity of views with the West on fundamental issues.

Russia's participation in sanctions against Iraq and Serbia, the acceleration of nuclear disarmament, the desire to smooth relations with Japan—all of this is necessary if we are to become a democratic state. Honest people do not need to conspire in advance and in secret to call a bully by his proper name.

However, democracy itself is unacceptable to Russian national socialists.

Just like any proper democrat, Kozyrev is considered to be a closet Jew. Even though racial purity was attained decades ago in the Smolensk Square buildings....

There is a particularly felt lack of someone to uphold the liberal line in foreign policy: Even democratic politicians like Oleg Rumyantsev or Sergey Stankevich are now eager to prove that they are even greater great-power champions than the national socialists.

One democratic deputy, for example, is convinced: The leadership of former Union republics must be addressed only from positions of strength. Another democratic deputy has publicly declared: Politics with white gloves is fine if you are dealing with civilized states. However, Russia's neighbors, in other words the former Union republics, actually call for simpler treatment....

As for Andrey Kozyrev, he believes that normal relations with CIS member countries can be established only on the basis of equal rights. As soon as the "big brother" positions are regained—Russia is stronger and cleverer—the 14 neighbors will turn into 14 enemies.

The Minister Has Woken Up

What is Kozyrev's main shortcoming?

He is not energetic enough. He is too much of a traditionalist as a diplomat.

The foreign policy service is conservative not only because, for decades on end, entry passes for the Smolensk Square building were issued mainly to people possessing enviable personal records, but also because diplomacy in general does not tolerate haste.

The Foreign Ministry was altogether unprepared for what it had to cope with following the Soviet Union's collapse: Several local wars at once, establishment of relations with 14 new neighbors, the future of Russia's citizens living outside its borders.

There is no time for lengthy elaboration of policy and much has to be decided straightaway, without the tried and tested circulation of paperwork among different offices.

However, Kozyrev has woken up. He is better and more confident when dealing with critical situations than when tackling routine issues. His calm nature and his moderate habits do not prevent him mastering the new style of work. He is quick off the mark, a champion of personal diplomacy.

Russia's Foreign Ministry is not a monolith. Kozyrev has overt and covert opponents. Many more of the latter than of the former. To judge the scale of this guerrilla warfare, look no further than the regularity with which secret Foreign Ministry documents are leaked to the newspaper DEN.

Judging by everything, the secret cable from Russia's UN representative was not leaked to the newspaper from the Foreign Ministry, but the correspondence with Secretary of State James Baker and the transcript of a conversation between Americans and Deputy Minister Gennadiy Berdennikov, who is in charge of military-strategic issues, were obviously taken out of the Smolensk Square building by Andrey Kozyrev's subordinates.

Those closest to Kozyrev, his deputies, and the Collegium members appear loyal to the minister. He picked his own team—except for Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev who was sent to him as commissar following the August events, and Boris Pastukhov, former first secretary of the Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] Central Committee and ambassador to Afghanistan.

Who Has Greater Access to the President?

The apparatus senses the weakness of Kozyrev's positions.

In the first place, the minister is on his own. Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who eagerly engages in international activity, has for several months now, been publicly saying that Kozyrev's line is altogether useless.

Judging by everything, the minister can count only on slight support from Gennadiy Burbulis. Having departed from his bombastically titled positions, Burbulis has not lost his influence on the president.

Russia's security minister and the director of the Foreign Intelligence Service—Kozyrev's partners and rivals—enjoy constant access to the president. Each Monday they report to Yeltsin, their appraisal of current events.

Andrey Kozyrev, even though he can always get in touch with the president and has yet to be refused a meeting or a telephone conversation, does not have a fixed time for reporting to the president.

Yet relations between the Foreign Ministry, the security organs, and the military are the same as before—in other words—bad. Differences of opinion concern disarmament and conflicts on the former USSR territory.

The military complain to the president that diplomats are making too many concessions in arms reductions. The Washington accord on the elimination of an entire class of missiles, which amazed everyone, was made possible only because Boris Yeltsin was firmly in favor of such a reduction.

The state security organs report to the president that diplomats underestimate the hostile intentions of neighboring states, in other words, the former Soviet republics.

This is a recurrence of the situation with Gorbachev, with the KGB and military intelligence supplying false information from the republics and pushing the president toward the use of force. This should come as no surprise to anyone, seeing that the security organs are staffed by the same people.

Kozyrev's opinion on all foreign policy questions is the first to be heard. Afterwards, the Defense Ministry, the Security Ministry, the Foreign Intelligence Service, and now the Security Council apparatus try to dispute his viewpoint.

For the time being, the president picks the most sensible solution from the options offered to him. For example, he meets the military halfway on cadres matters—Defense Minister Grachev was able to put together a totally "Afghan" team, but Yeltsin accepts the Foreign Ministry viewpoint on disarmament issues.

Will this remain so always?

President Yeltsin is playing the games which Gorbachev liked so much: Instead of boldly and resolutely pursuing the reforms, he is beginning to worry about the balance of power between the proponents and opponents of reforms, retaining for himself the role of supreme arbiter.

Gorbachev started this as soon as he peaked out as a reformer. It looks as if Yeltsin is also in a state of confusion, not knowing what to do next. Previously his assertive zeal shaped society's moods, but now he is beginning to take into account the opinion of the opponents of reforms, thinking that they must also have access to power.

Structures are thus emerging which immediately reveal their anti-reform intentions.

The Russian Security Council was created along the lines of the similar U.S. institution. However, the leader of the foreign policy department in the United States—the secretary of state—is a member of the National Security Council and is generally considered to be the Number Two in government, after the President.

It can be assumed that attempts will be made to sidetrack the Foreign Ministry and have all the fundamental foreign policy documents elaborated by the Council apparatus.

Functionaries in Russia's Security Council occasionally invite the minister of foreign affairs to discuss national security problems. At other times his presence is considered superfluous. Occasionally Kozyrev is sent, in advance, materials for the Council's next session so that he can prepare for it. At other times they forget.

Attempts will now be made to force Kozyrev to change his own course.

Naturally, the young minister is keen to retain his position—the summit of a diplomatic career. Let us hope that this keenness does not extend to changing his course for the sake of his office.

Yeltsin Said To Commandeer Brezhnev Dacha

PM1908141992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 4

[A. Yevtushenko article: "They All Want to Live at Brezhnev's Dacha"]

[Text] Hardly had we written about the fate of Brezhnev's former dacha in Kislovodsk, which has been leased by a firm called "Asmaral" (see KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, 15 August), than the Kremlin immediately turned its attention to it also. We have learned from sources close to government circles that B. Yeltsin recently signed an order transferring the dacha to his control. Our correspondent phoned Svetlana Bekoyeva, general director of "Asmaral."

"In fact we received a letter from the Kislovodsk administration demanding that the site be vacated in three days. Apparently on the orders of the president and for his needs. If our firm refused to obey they threatened to call in a Special-Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON]. But, in the first place, it is physically impossible to leave in such a short time—we have property worth tens of millions of rubles there. In addition, we have obligations toward 138 staff and we just cannot throw them out at a moment's notice. Second, we have signed a 49-year lease with the city soviet, into whose ownership the dacha was transferred by a Gorbachev decree. All the legal norms have been observed. Under the law no administrative organ can unilaterally cancel a contract—only an arbitration court can settle a dispute.

"We understand that in principle anyone at all can lay claim to the dacha, including the president. Well, go ahead. But not for another 49 years. Of course, if the dacha is needed for the salvation of the fatherland I am ready for that; I will even sacrifice my own apartment. But to throw people out on the street just because some functionaries in the president's apparatus took the idea into their heads... I am sorry, but I thought that those times were over. Thus the issue can only be settled through the court..."

Yesterday we rang M. Proskurin, chairman of Kislovodsk City Soviet:

"Yes, the president has issued an ordinance transferring the building in question to federal ownership," Mikhail Sergeyevich said. "We have notified the ‘Asmaral’ management of that fact. I do not know whether the building is going to be the president's dacha or whether it will simply be a country residence—it is not up to me to decide. But the contract with ‘Asmaral’ will have to be cancelled anyway. Not within three days, of course—we will give them a little longer than that. And the OMON will not be involved—that is all emotional talk—but nevertheless, the contract will be cancelled. We are acting on the basis of Boris Nikolayevich's ordinance. ‘Asmaral’ has the right to appeal to the arbitration court, and it will decide. I personally think that the Russian president's representatives will find some kind of compromise at the negotiating table with the ‘Asmaral’ president. For example, another building in Kislovodsk, Sochi, or Moscow will be placed at his disposal.

"You must understand that this is how things have turned out. The situation changed," the soviet chairman repeated. Indeed, how can those slow-witted foreigners from the civilized world still not have grasped that we are "not all measured by the same yardstick?" One man left, another came, the situation changed... Indeed, things change.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Russia's New Image

LD2108043592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] A new Russia has appeared in the eyes of the world community as a state which adheres to civilized norms of behavior, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, deputy foreign minister of Russia, stated in an interview with the RIA agency. Summing up the results of foreign political activity in the year following the putsch, he noted that Russia's establishment of its fundamentally new image with the entire world has been the main result.

The deputy minister stressed that it has been mainly thanks to Russia that it has been possible to overcome the centrifugal tendencies in the CIS. In addition, in Shelov-Kovedyayev's opinion, Russia has managed to prove that its troops stationed in the Baltic states do not threaten anyone.

The Russian diplomat promised that the acute nature of this issue will be removed in the near future.

‘Great Power’ Foreign Policy Examined

PM1808163092 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No. 30, Jul 92 pp 4-7

[Vsevolod Rybakov article: "Great Russia—A Myth Or a Reality?"]

[Excerpts] Russia was, is and will be a great power. This assertion has recently become a constant tenor of public speeches by Russian leaders. It's the leitmotif of pronouncements by both the Russian President and the chief of the Russian foreign policy Andrey Kozyrev.

This insistance on Russia's greatness is conducive to many thoughts, and in the first place, to the question which seems somewhat abstract at first glance: what is a great power in the contemporary world? [passage omitted]

To stop, recover one's breath, look around...

Not everything is OK as far as the new Russia's involvement in world affairs and her diplomacy are concerned. There is quite enough declarations, but the impression is that there is a lack of orderliness and precision in strategic objectives to test every concrete political action. Their absence, at least as seen by a detached onlooker, is disguised by feverish, sometimes even confused foreign political activity. But the geographic range of even this type of activity is very limited. One sphere is, naturally, the "immediate abroad," the other, the advanced industrial countries, plus sporadic "expeditions" to the Middle East, Afghanistan and Turkey.

Let's have a look at the time-table of the President's foreign (outside the CIS) visits and the list of state and government leaders he has received in Moscow. The same advanced industrial countries, no contacts with Asia, Africa or Latin America. The exception, i.e. Japan, Turkey, South Africa and South Korea, as usual, only confirm the rule. And how quickly concern over the environment has subsided and become almost undiscernible among the concerns of Russia's foreign policy along with the Third World's underdevelopment and other global issues which in recent years have won us the esteem of the world community.

Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev deserves sympathy and appreciation; his personal courage (let us remember his far from safe visit to Kabul and Sarajevo); his ability to diplomatically comment on negotiations, is to be admired. But does his frenzic running around near-by and remote capitals leave him enough time to think, to make a detailed and profound analysis of Russia's position in the world. Is he able, together with his competent advisors, to first of all determine Russia's long-term primary interests and to outline a strategy for their implementations:

No time for it? But let us remember the Bush-Baker Administration coming to power in the United States. The situation in the relations with, primarily, the Soviet Union seemed to call for urgent decisions. The extremely important agreement on strategic offensive weapons hung in midair, but Bush and Baker took a time-out all of a sudden, in order to thoroughly investigate the entire set of international problems. The Soviet Union urged them, American and other columnists and cartoonists mocked them, supplementing information about any foreign political event of importance with the invariable question "Where is Bush?", yet the pause of precisely the right duration—half a year—was sustained. A strategy was formulated, and American diplomacy perplexed American political allies. A clear political line strictly adhered to by the USA during the last three years was seen in the stream of initiatives and in Baker's running around the world's capitals. And the USA can afford this, even in spite of the "precipitous" changes in Central Europe and the former USSR.

One could object that there are examples of big strategic successes in foreign policy achieved as a result of a spontaneous desperate gambit, won precisely due to quickness of action. Such seems the famous move by Helmut Kohl after the fall of the Berlin Wall, his ten provisions on the reunion of Germany. However, the success had been prepared by almost two decades of "eastern policy," consistant and persistent. The long-term interest had been determined in advance and never waived, as Germany didn't waive her strategic interests in the recognition of the independence of Slovenia and Croatia, despite, at first, the strongest, pressure by her partners in the European Community.

I am ready to admit that Russia's "immediate abroad" leaves her no time for either contemplation or a time-out. Nevertheless, such fundamental principles of a great power's foreign policy as an exact formulation and strict observance of a strategic course and long- term interests, dignity, pragmatism, the understanding of one's partner's motives and sensible foresight of consequences are required here no less than elsewhere.

At the same time, the foreign policy with regard to former republics of the former USSR can't be given the same status as diplomatic relations with countries traditionally foreign to us. This policy, for all the obligatory and absolute esteem for the independence of these new states, will never be completely "foreign." It's not for nothing that special departments "for the affairs of the Commonwealth" were created in France and Great Britain after the declaration of independence by their former colonies. Having relieved itself of matters extraneous to it and having regained its breath, our Foreign Ministry could tackle traditional foreign political matters, i.e., consolidation of relations with the traditionally foreign countries, whereas the relations with the "immediate abroad" could be entrusted to, for instance, a newly created department.

... and not to close the doors to the outer world...

Then the time would be found for the pauses and contemplations we so need. It would be found also that our foreign policy is not to be appreciated according to the number of condescending and even friendly pats on the shoulder, each time Russia votes in international organizations as it would never voted before. We would have time to check, in which cases our "special" position was dictated by the outlived ideology or the desire of military supremacy and in which cases it was determined by the real difference of our interests, especially long-term ones, from those of, say, the United States. And the moves of our diplomacy in the course of the conflict between the world community and the Iraq of Saddam Husayn would be approved post factum, and questions would be asked concerning the correctness of our support of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

What made us, in this latter case, forget about Russia's long-standing interests? Sanctions, as was more than once proved by history, will hardly make Serbia surrender and her people applaud the ideological arguments used to back the accusations of aggression. They will rather, as has always been the case, consolidate the people, and will instill bitterness towards Russians and Russia—for the first time in this century. In fact, no one expected anything more than a mere abstention, as China did.

Thus, forgetting Russian historical traditions, we can lose old friends without winning new ones, only to once again seek a new "gate to the world" afterwards.

The same applies to the principle of global interests. This principle does not at all mean the desire to "penetrate" into any region or any country. It means to secure one's "presence." All great powers always spared no efforts for the sake of this. One feels rather uncomfortable to see the list of closed embassies of the former USSR which were once opened with so much pain. Do the leaders of Russian diplomacy really believe that it's possible to occupy a respectable position in the world, focusing all one's attention, strength and means on the development of relations exclusively with a group of advanced industrial countries?

I am convinced that all this happens due to haste, to the impossibility to think it over. The new Russia which no longer pursues large-scale objectives in most countries of the Third World could probably afford having mini-embassies there, made up of two or three diplomats without other, usually rather numerous, personnel. They might be preserved in Papua-New Guinea, in Togo and in other countries and even opened in those where there had been none. A political effect of this presence, testifying to our global interests and to the absence of neglect of any country, would have been greater than that of declarations concerning our "greatness."

Nor can we ignore the effect of economic cooperation with "these little ones," because there are better chances for mutually advantageous trade and economic relations with devleoping countries, in whose family we have so "unexpectedly" found ourselves, than with advanced countries. And some of the former, such as India, are willing to help and do help us. May the time come when our newspapers' pages devoted to advertisements and business news are full of information from our diplomats offering our young businesspeople new, so far unknown to them and quite concrete fields where they can apply their energy?

To conclude, I will dare repeat once again—actual and not merely declared global intersts; a careful, yet devoid of sluggishness, formulations of long-term objectives of foreign policy; consistancy and dignity in their implementation; taking into account historical traditions (and not following them blindly); a sensible preconsideration of every definite step and an equally sensible vision of motives guiding other actors on the international scene—all this is both indispensible and sufficient for the new Russia to be able to make use of her real chance to occupy a place worthy of a great power. At the same time, a neglect of the above-mentioned principles on the part of those responsible for Russia's foreign policy is fraught with the danger of the latter being challenged by populist claims which could unite extremists from both the right and the left.

Parliament Probing Foreign Intelligence Service

LD2008170792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—The Russian parliament's committee for defence and security matters on Thursday [20 August] began a probe into the activity of foreign intelligence service, ITAR-TASS was told by secretary of the committee Valeriy Shuykov.

"Recently the Russian parliament has passed a law 'On Foreign Intelligence'; the president signed it and a special parliamentary commission will begin investigating the operations of this important service," he said. "Today we decided purely organisational matters together with foreign intelligence leaders," Shuykov explained.

"Overall, the commission will have to clarify many questions, primarily, whether internal normative acts of the foreign intelligence service conform to the constitution and Russian legislation. We will also study the structure of foreign intelligence, have a look at its budget and expenditures and, naturally, examine the main directions of its activities. The parliament must exercise a comprehensive control over the foreign intelligence service."

Asked if all documents were to be submitted for examination by deputies, Shuykov replied that the parliament commission would act in full compliance with applicable law which guards the holy of holies of the secret service. "There are some things that even we, deputies, do not need to know, the composition of residents and agents, for example," he explained.

Democratic Party Official Gives News Conference

LD1908173492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Ilya Roytman, deputy chairman of the Russian Democratic Party, told a news conference in Moscow today that those currently in power are not democrats but liberal communists. Our correspondent Konstantin Novikov has the details:

[Novikov] Ilya Roytman was speaking on behalf of Nikolay Travkin, the leader of the Russian Democratic Party. This party considers that the events of last August were no operetta. According to Ilya Roytman, the battle in the CPSU camp has finished where it began and it ended with a victory for the liberal section. This is why the representative of the Democratic Party and of Travkin considers that it is not democrats but liberal communists who are now in power.

In reply to a question about whether the Russian Democratic Party considers itself to be the patriotic opposition, Ilya Roytman answered in detail about the very concept of patriot, as it is currently understood. The general muddle has actually engendered a phenomenon which is called the substitution of concepts in logic. This is when, for example, we say patriots and for some reason mean certain parties or movements or sometimes even individual representatives of them. But the patriotism of the Russian Democratic Party finds expression in the idea of a single, multiethnic and indivisible Russia.

The Russian Democratic Party representative spoke bluntly about the economic reforms being carried out in Russia. The party is opposed to the government and to President Yeltsin himself. This concerns both the policies and the implementation of the reforms.

Ilya Roytman also made some political forecasts. He stated, for example, that last year's putsch is unlikely to be repeated. However, he said that something similar is possible, albeit in a different form.

Social Democrat Leader Orlov Interviewed

PM2108113792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Doctor of Historical Sciences Boris Orlov, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of

Russia, by ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent Pavel Anokhin; place and date not given: "Boris Orlov: History Has Set Us Another Challenge"]

[Text] Doctor of Historical Sciences Boris Orlov, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Russia, answered questions from your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent Pavel Anokhin.

[Anokhin] There is now a great deal of reflection as to what has happened to us in the year since the August putsch. I would like to put several questions to you, not as a social democratic politician, but as a political scientist who has studied political life in Western Europe for many years. What is happening to our democracy?

[Orlov] Roughly the same thing that happened to our "socialism." It was extolled, cursed, and denied, but no kind of social system guaranteeing greater freedom and a higher standard of living than capitalism has ever existed. We were virtually at the mercy of illusion and a myth that suited some people and not others. It's the same with democracy. The timid half-steps toward democracy that have been taken were regarded as democracy. We soon saw that little came of it, that the politicians who consider themselves democrats are little different from their predecessors, and that an illusion has appeared once again—democracy has not paid off. If that is true, we will once again be seeking our own special Russian path.

[Anokhin] In that case how would you describe the state that our society has been in for a whole year?

[Orlov] I would describe it as predemocratic. Some people pressed for the further development of democracy, others have effectively begun to turn to the authoritarian path. This primarily applies to Yeltsin and his entourage. Instead of renouncing the pseudoparliament that was elected when a single party—the CPSU—held sway and scheduling multiparty elections immediately after the putsch was suppressed, he used a traditional Russian method—that of strengthening vertical structures of authority and appointing local administration heads. The CPSU general secretary before him did virtually the same thing. With one difference—the candidate obkom [oblast committee] secretary selected by the CPSU elite was formally ratified at a plenum of the oblast party organization. Yet here everything went more simply—he signed the decree and bingo! Incidentally, those people who were until recently obkom, raykom [rayon committee], and gorkom [city committee] secretaries are precisely those who have begun to act. As a result the former partyocracy has returned to power in many areas, ousting countless regrettably inexperienced democrats.

[Anokhin] How can you account for these actions from a president whom many people regard as the model of democracy?

[Orlov] He is a democrat who has only been able to observe real democracy in action in passing during his trips abroad surrounded by crowds of guards and an official entourage. His ideas of effective government developed, I think, at the time when he was head of a CPSU obkom. That structure of authority made it possible to influence processes from top to bottom, down to the smallest village. He would pick up the telephone and call a local party committee secretary—there and then he would get the response: "Done!" An outwardly efficient way of ensuring feedback between the "highups" and the "grass roots." The conclusion is self-evident: Honest, intelligent people must be installed everywhere, then the system will work. I think that at this stage Yeltsin, like it or not, is acting as a very honest, decent "obkom secretary" on the territory of the "very large oblast" called Russia. With that approach there is no specific need for the development of democracy.

[Anokhin] But if that approach works, what's wrong in that?

[Orlov] The point is that it isn't working. The relatively efficient operation of the vertical structures of authority during the CPSU's rule was dependent, on the one hand, on repressive organs and, on the other, on the ideological possibility of creating a socialist paradise. Everyone felt either fear or faith in the ideas of socialism. There is neither now. And, importantly enough, there is none of the former "monolithic society." More and more varying social groups with varying interests are emerging and coming into conflict with one another. We must learn to reconcile them by political means. That is the main purpose of democracy. It is no luxury, but a necessary condition for civilized existence. Democratic institutions in Europe began to develop precisely when market relations were taking shape as new social groups emerged with new social interests. Without the market—which must not be confused with a bazaar—there are no conditions for democracy. And vice versa. If we decided to enter into market relations in earnest, we could not do so without democracy.

[Anokhin] Do you think that our president does not see the connection?

[Orlov] I think that he can see it and is very well aware of it. However, he is faced with another problem—on whom should he rely in implementing market reforms? There are very few politicians who can think and act democratically. But even the capable ones—among whom I would place Anatoliy Sobchak and Gavriil Popov—cannot withstand the test of power.

[Anokhin] Good politicians don't grow on trees. They emerge as the democratic process develops, as self-government organs are shaped and parties and a civil society comes into being...

[Orlov] Certainly, there is always rigorous selection in democracy as there is in life. First, within the political party framework and then when political parties compete with one another in elections. I must point out that a good politician is God-given. This is a special gift and involves special abilities for dealing with and influencing the public. It involves skill in considering and reconciling diverse interests. Note, skilled specialists are not desperate to become politicians. They realize that you cannot make do with information alone. You need flair, intuition, and courage to make what are sometimes unpopular decisions. Take De Gaulle. What happened when he said they were pulling out of Algeria! This was not, after all, some island at the end of the known universe. France was losing a vast region, extremely important in every respect. What rending of shirts there was among France's Baburins [reference to Sergey Baburin, deputy in opposition to Yeltsin]. De Gaulle insisted on having his own way and extracted this splinter from the body of France. Had he not done so, the wound would be bleeding to this day. That's a politician for you!

[Anokhin] That's another sad reality: Not only are the best things abroad, but also the best politicians. Do you think that we will shortly have politicians in the full sense of the word?

[Orlov] The more the democratic space unfolds, the greater the likelihood of people of that kind emerging. And, why beat around the bush, we do have one full-scale politician in the wake of totalitarian Russia. He is Boris Yeltsin. Despite all the criticism leveled at him let us remember that had he not mounted the tank outside the White House during the days of the State Committee for the State of Emergency we would still be living under the authority of the Kryuchkovs, Yanayevs, and Lukyanovs. It was with the incumbent president's help that we were able to break with the dogmas and structures of totalitarianism. Now it is important to move on.

[Anokhin] Where, in what direction?

[Orlov] In the same direction—and building the home of Russian democracy. Remember that no carpenter will take up an ax if he has no idea of the structure of this house and the sequence of actions to be taken. The incumbent Russian leadership must have an action strategy and know when to knock down walls, when to put up the roof, and when to hold a housewarming celebration. There's a long way to go to the celebration, but we must keep this in mind. History has hurled another challenge at us and we simply must respond to it.

Military Issues

Militia Said Ordered To Track Down Communists

PM1808131392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 92 p 1

[Nikolay Kozhanov report incorporating undated letter to PRAVDA from unidentified Ministry of Internal Affairs staffers and text of "Special Report" addressed to A.N. Murashev, chief of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Main Administration, from the chief of the 21st Southwest Moscow Administrative Okrug Rayon Internal Affairs Administration: "Just Investigate—and That's All..! Officials of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Send a Letter to PRAVDA"]

[Text] "Esteemed Comrades! We consider it our duty to inform an authoritative mass medium of a fact that is causing us great alarm. Recently the authorities have been sparing no effort to inveigle the militia into the death throes of their political turmoil by turning us into a political secret police. Even in the years of orgiastic crushing of dissidence by the state security service, the militias were not compelled to engage in political detection in such a brazen form. This is a slap in the face for the people who are supposed to combat criminals, and we are being ordered to track down Communists, who are perceived as terrorists and conspirators.

"Lieutenant General A.F. Dunayev, Russian first deputy minister of internal affairs, ignoring the regulations of the Law 'On the Militia,' is issuing instructions and orders for the detection of persons engaged in opposition to the pseudodemocratic regime..."

The authors of this statement did not append their signatures. On the other hand, they enclosed the following document with the letter.

"To A.N. Murashev, chief of the Moscow Internal Affairs Main Administration

"SPECIAL REPORT

"At 1200 on 5 July 1992, a report was received from the duty unit of the Moscow City Internal Affairs Main Administration about a proposed assembly of Communists on the territory of Butovo Station. Through measures taken in conjunction with the Moscow City Internal Affairs Main Administration Information Group, at approximately 1300 a group of about 20 people was uncovered at Butovo Station, Block 17, Krasilolimanskaya Street, in the premises of a country club. According to the account by NARODNAYA GAZETA Chief Editor Sergey Borisovich Skvortsov, they had assembled to discuss their own problems; they refused to give other explanations. At 1630 the group dispersed. No offences whatever were committed by the group in question.

[Signed] Signature illegible, chief of the 21st Southwest Moscow Administrative Okrug Rayon Internal Affairs Administration, Militia lieutenant."

The following resolution appears on the "Special Report": "To chiefs of operations main committees. Please keep me informed on similar matters. Dunayev, 6.07.92."

For the record: Ministry of Internal Affairs Operations Main Committees—these are three main administrations dealing with organized crime, criminal investigations, and economic crimes, plus the Administration for the Unlawful Traffic of Narcotics. And all of them, it emerges, have been instructed to seek out these "cunning" Communists. No time left for catching criminals!

In short, just as it was under the "good old" czarist regime, so beloved of some democrats. But after all, even then it was supposedly the gendarmerie that mostly dealt with this delicate affair, and not the police... No, say what you like, our "pluralist" democracy throws up some strange jokes at times.

Grachev, TU Leaders Discuss Army Problems

PM1808120192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Aug 92 p 1

[Russian Defense Ministry Press Center Report: "Problems of Workers and Employees Discussed"]

[Text] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, met with leaders of the Army and Navy Workers' and Employees' Union on Saturday, 15 August. He listened attentively and with great concern to the trade union leaders, who raised questions concerning the social protection of people now working in units and subunits and at military enterprises and facilities.

The complex economic situation in the country is affecting this category of working people every day. As a rule they earn less pay than their counterparts in civilian departments. Consequently the Army and Navy are steadily losing their most skilled and experienced staff. The legal status of workers and employees in the Russian Armed Forces has not been defined. People working in units and military organizations in "hot spots" on the territory of foreign neighbors, for example in the Baltics, have the most difficult conditions.

Questions of improving trade, medical services, and provision of health resorts for workers and employees and expanding the network of preschool and children's health establishments were discussed during the meeting. All these problems will be studied and discussed and ways to resolve them will be worked out in the next few days. At the end of the week there will be another meeting between the Russian minister of defense and the union's leaders.

Grachev Seeks Solutions to Servicemen's Problems

PM1808122392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 92 First Edition p 2

[Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Sas report: "The Army: They Will Have To Squeeze Up"]

[Text] Last week Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian minister of defense, embarked on a lengthy tour of the Moscow region.

The minister was prompted to set off on this itinerary by a problem which, as he put it, has become a "daily headache" for him—where and how to house the personnel from units being withdrawn from East European countries and several former Soviet republics.

This time, it seems, Pavel Grachev has hit the "jackpot." The trip around the Moscow region has shown: There are half-empty hotels, hostels, and even complete cantonments—all this also appears to be a reality.

"You can find significant reserves in every military district, and we will evince a certain rigidity and exigence here," the Army general said. "I cannot allow some people to wander around without a roof over their heads, while others have entire buildings that are empty."

The minister emphasized yet another idea. Several chiefs are pinning all hopes of resolving social problems on new building programs. But alongside the new buildings there are sometimes buildings with boarded up windows—there is nobody to repair them. Such facts will be considered to be mismanagement and proof that people in positions of responsibility are not doing their jobs properly.

Economic & Trade Issues

Official on Privatization, Economic Reform

LD2008111292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—Privatisation is central to the economic reform. Without it, the effort to combat inflation and to "defreeze" economy will be pointless. Such is the opinion that Dmitriy Vasilyev, deputy chairman of the state Committee for the State Property of the Russian Federation, expressed to ITAR-TASS.

He said that the initial stage of privatisation has on the whole been completed. The legislative base has been formed in the main. The organisational structure has been developed and initial practical results achieved. The passage from debates on privatisation to real actions is the main result of that period. After February 1992 the emphasis in privatisation reform is shifted to practical actions and the pace of privatisation is constantly increasing. The number of applications for privatisation surpassed 50,000. More than 10,000 state facilities became private property. Vasilyev believes that privatisation proceeds at a particularly high pace in the Rostov region, the Kaluga, Vladimir, Nizhny Novgorod regions and the Krasnodar territory. The population participates actively in the privatisation process in these and many other regions. Facilities of the municipal property, above all, stores and ammenities of the communal services sell well in a number of cities and regions. The auctions and contests passed successfully in Nizhny Novgorod, St. Petersburg, Belgorod, Vladimir, Ryazan, Volgodonsk, Kostroma.

Vasilyev said that the bulk of enterprises are bought out under lease agreements concluded prior to the issuing in Russia of the law on the privatisation of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation.

At the same time, he said that on the whole the rates of growth of privatisation are unsatisfactory. Few enterprises are being transformed into open joint stock companies. There is a need to step up the work of the heads of local administration and the Russian Committee for State Property.

Volskiy Examines Errors in Reform Stages

LD1408224492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1209 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 13 TASS—The Russian Government and the whole of the economy moved to implement the second stage of the economic reform, which is meant to assert market relations in the country and push worker productivity up, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs President Arkadiy Volskiy writes in today's issue of the weekly BUSINESS AND BANKS.

"At this stage, a programme in the elaboration of which the union was vigorously involved, will be adopted. Actually, the programme came into being as a result of the joint efforts by the union and the government. Regrettably, although our ideas were embraced, ways to translate them into life were not specified. The government and parliament agreed with far from all of our proposals," Volskiy points out.

"But all the same, the first stage of reform, which was carried out at the macro-level, has produced some results. It was erroneous, however, that work was not conducted at the level of enterprises. A gap has developed between the macro-economy and the micro-economy and plants actually found themselves paralysed. The reason is not so much in the break-up of economic links as in the fact that the reform did not stimulate the maintenance of the production of output, to say nothing of its growth. Industry can stay alive for another year or two and then a collapse will occur if new funds are not put up into it," Volskiy believes.

In his view, another negative consequence of the reform has been the slowdown in the investment activity. "Who's idea was it to tax the money which is invested in production? This move created a barrier to sizeable funds being accumulated in commercial banks, insurance companies and by the population," Volskiy observed.

Volskiy believes it is necessary that issues of enticing foreign investments should at long last be thoroughly studied. If government credits have to be solicited at the level of national humiliation, private capital will come on its own if conditions for this are created. The fears that the West will buy everything are ungrounded. Enterprises with one hundred per cent foreign ownership of assets will all the same remain in Russia and their output will be produced for ouselves, Volskiy writes.

State Employment Service Sees High Unemployment

LD2008214192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Eight hundred and fifty thousand people out of work have been registered in Russia, according to an official report. This number may increase sharply in autumn, as factories are closed down, and reach two to four million people by the end of the year. The figures were released by the State Employment Service of Russia, which sees its key tasks in creating new jobs and retraining people who have lost work.

Moscow Industrial Production Slumps 24.6 Percent

LD2008201692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Production in Moscow has slumped by 24.6 per cent as of today, ITAR-TASS was told by First Deputy Prime Minister of Moscow Konstantin Buravlev. Describing the current situation as critical, he said that the government planned to take resolute measures to stem the crisis in nearest future.

Buravlev said he pinned great hopes on the Russian law on bankruptcy, the details of which the Moscow government hoped to obtain by August 25. A programme to phase in a clearing settlement system, drafted with the help of American experts, had been prepared. However, many issues of financial and monetary circulation were beyond the competence of the city, he added. In this context, a recent meeting of entrepreneurs, industrial managers, bankers and the administration decided to ask the Russian Government and the president for help in improving the system of financial and monetary settlements.

Curbs on Gold Production Information Eased

PM1908091192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 92 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "The Government Has Resolved": "Gold: There Are Almost No Secrets Henceforth"]

[Text] The stamp of secrecy has been removed from information about gold extraction quotas and extraction and production accounting figures for the Russian Federation as a whole and also for enterprises and organizations irrespective of their form of ownership. This has been done in connection with our country joining the IMF.

The State Committee for Statistics has been tasked with approving statistical reporting formats and establishing a procedure and time limits for presenting data. The

Ministry of Finances together with the Russian "Almazzoloto" corporation will prepare for the IMF information about the annual production of precious metals in the USSR for the years 1989-1991.

Every year the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics, and the State Committee for Statistics will present the government with an analytical survey of the present state of extraction and production together with forecasts for them. These surveys' stamps of secrecy are being determined in the established manner. (Resolution No. 536)

Finance Ministry Rejects Claim to Revenue

PM2008094992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Aug 92 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "'Russia Is Entitled To Set a Standard Federal Tax...' This Is What They Think in the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance"]

[Text] The other day the leaders of three republics in the Russian Federation—Bashkortostan, Sakha (Yakutia), and Tatarstan—made a joint statement warning the center that they intend "to take further steps to reinforce their sovereignty in response to the federal authorities' lack of regard for the republics' legitimate rights and interests."

The reason for this resolute statement was the law adopted 17 July by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet "On the Russian Federation Budget System for 1992," which annuls these republics' decisions to divert federal budget income to their own accounts. Defending their position, the three presidents stated that under the existing Russian Federation Constitution the Russian parliament is not entitled to annul normative acts adopted by republic Supreme Soviets. Especially as talks are already being held with the center on this whole set of issues.

We were keen to find out from the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance where its sympathies lie.

"Russia is a unitary state and is entitled to set a standard federal tax covering all its territory," Mikhail Shpilko, chief of the Tax Administration at the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, says. "Especially as the budgets of all the republics have already been drawn up. Besides, income from value-added tax, which is purely federal, has not been taken into account. To lay claim to this is to mount an attack on the country's integrity."

Foreign Cooperation, Development Body Formed

OW2008115492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0806 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the aims of attaining more effective coordination of ties with foreign states and international organizations in the areas of investment, financial, humanitarian, cultural, scientific, and technical collaborations and in accordance with proposals from the Russian Association of International Collaboration and the Russian Government, the Russian Agency of International Collaboration and Development has been formed by a decree from President Yeltsin. Accordingly, the head of the government resolved to abolish the Committee on Foreign Investments under the Russian Finance Ministry, assigning its functions to the Agency. It has been assigned to secure the operations of the Commission on matters of international humanitarian and technological aid under the Russian government.

The Russian Agency of International Collaboration and Development will be chaired by Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin.

Foreign Trade Ministry Proposes Changes

OW1808112692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0957 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The one-sided shift toward Western industrialized countries in the foreign policy and trade does not meet the vital interests of Russia. The conclusion is drawn in a report on the strategy of the Russian foreign economic activities for 1992 and 1993 written by the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations.

Since the beginning of the decade the share of industrialized countries in Russia's foreign trade has gone up from 40 to 60%. Almost 80% of joint ventures are linked with Western companies and pin their hopes to the influx of investments from the West.

The pro-Western strategy does not take into account a whole set of long-term factors and will make Russia a permanent outsider in the world economy, the report says.

At present preference in foreign trade should be given to the developing world.

Foreign Trade Statistics for Jan-Jul Given

LD1708190692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS—Russia's foreign trade turnover reached 37,500 million U.S. dollars between January-July 1992, a 27 per cent decrease over last year's figures, according to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

Russia's trade with industrialised countries dropped by 21 per cent, reaching 22,500 million U.S. dollars, with developing countries by 15 per cent totalling five billion U.S. dollars, while former socialist countries accounted for 73 per cent of Russia's trade turnover (a 67 per cent decrease over the same period last year).

Russia exported 18,400 million U.S. dollars' worth of goods in the first seven months of 1992, which is 34 per cent less than last year, including 2,500 million U.S. dollars in July.

Exports of oil fell by 16 per cent reaching 27.9 million tonnes, gas 51 billion cubic meters (2.7 per cent decrease) and coal - 9.3 million tonnes.

Russia's imports totaled 19,100 million dollars in the period between January and July 1992, including 1,900 million U.S. dollars in July, falling by 17 per cent since last year.

The republic bought 221,000 tonnes of frozen meat (18 per cent less than last year), poultry - 26,000 tonnes (45 per cent), potatoes - 126,000 tonnes (52 per cent), citrus fruits - 30,000 tonnes (79 per cent), apples and pears - 58,000 tonnes (28 per cent), coffee - 10,000 tonnes (57 per cent), tea - 28,000 tonnes (63 per cent), sugar - 1.9 million tonnes (4 per cent), cotton fabric - 11.4 million meters (71 per cent), silk fabric - 1.6 million meters (9 per cent), knitted wear - worth 275 million U.S. dollars (33 per cent), textile clothing - worth 371 million U.S. dollars (22 per cent), ferrous metals - 206 million U.S. dollars (61 per cent), pipes - 222,000 tonnes (71 per cent), machinery and equipment - worth 6.6 billion U.S. dollars (15 per cent), grain - 14.7 million tonnes (47 per cent more than last year), medicines - worth 748 million U.S. dollars (46 per cent increase).

European countries accounted for 68 per cent of Russia's foreign trade turnover between January-July 1992, Asia - 21 per cent, Africa - two per cent, America - nine per cent, Australia and Oceania - 0.1 per cent.

Russia's trade with European countries reached 18.225 billion U.S. dollars in the first seven months of the year, including Germany - 6.848 billion U.S. dollars, Italy - 2.7 billion U.S. dollars, France - 1.724 billion U.S. dollars, Britain - 1.306 billion U.S. dollars, the Netherlands - 1.259 billion U.S. dollars, Finland - 0.943 billion U.S. dollars and Austria - 0.907 billion U.S. dollars, Czechoslovakia - 1.780 billion U.S. dollars, Poland - 1.548 billion U.S. dollars, Hungary - 1.163 billion U.S. dollars, Bulgaria - 0.107 [figure as received] billion U.S. dollars, India - 1.004 billion U.S. dollars and Cuba - 648 million U.S. dollars.

With 1.934 billion U.S. dollar trade turnover with the United States, Russia's imports from the U.S. exceeded its exports by 4.2 times, while with Canada by 8.9 times (trade turnover 592 million U.S. dollars).

Russia's trade with Japan reached 1.843 billion U.S. dollars in the first seven months of 1992, China - 1.605 billion U.S. dollars, Korea - 0.544 billion U.S. dollars. Russia is now developing trade ties with Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Trade Union Leader on Industrialists Forum

LD1708180892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 17 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS—The Federation of Russia's Independent Trade Unions Deputy Chairman Vasiliy Romanov emphasised that Russian trade unions and entrepreneurs stood on close or identical positions in evaluating the current economic situation in Russia and its prospects.

Commenting on the National Conference of Commodity Producers, which was held in Moscow recently and also involved trade unions, Romanov told ITAR-TASS: "A constructive step was taken towards civil peace and social accord in the interests of the whole of the country."

Noting that participants in the forum were of one mind as regards the need for sweeping reforms, Romanov drew attention to commodity producers' two differing approaches to the mechanism for hauling the country out of the economic crisis.

"We are on the side of those who stake on developing the national industry at the expense of domestic reserves rather than Western credits. Entrepreneurs, who venture to saturate the market with goods that are badly needed by Russians, on condition of some privileges on the part of the government deserve support," Romanov added.

Romanov, who was included in the commodity producers' coordinating council from the trade unions, expressed regret that Russian Government officials and parliament leaders did not attend the conference. "A grand opportunity for discussing comprehensively how to remake the economic programme, which is far from perfect, was let slip away," he observed.

At the same time, Romanov voiced the "reserved hope" that the government "will support the idea of economic solidarity in deepening reform and will form in deed rather than by word of mouth a social partnership with commodity producers and trade unions."

State Insurance Company To Offer New Insurance

LD2008225592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1926 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Russia's biggest joint-stock insurance company is now being formed on a basis of state structures. Its main founder will be the state represented by the State Committee on Property, Vyacheslav Shakhov, president of the Russian State Insurance Company, told BUSINESS TASS on Thursday.

The president of the Russian State Insurance Company believes insurance assumes new quality in conditions of market relations. In this connection, new kinds of insurance are to be offered. There will be insurance against business risks. There will be the insurance against production risks in the oil and gas industry, in the timber industry, in building and assembly works. There will be insurance of crediting by commercial banks.

Shakhov believes effective measures should be taken to protect insurers against the inflation. The investment of resources in commercial structures is considered in this connection. There are plans for the insurance of old-age pensioners living alone and having no close relatives. In the event of their death, their realty can go to the insurance company. This plan is of considerable social importance, Shakhov said.

The Russian State Insurance Company expands external ties. It formed with the Italian insurance company "INA" joint venture "Sovitas" for the training of personnel for insurance companies. It is planned to sign with "INA" in September an agreement to set up an insurance joint venture. The experience and technical supply by the Italian side will make it possible to begin the insurance of foreign investment. The Russian Insurance Company maintains close contacts with British and German insurance companies.

Shakhov said that insurance premiums in Russia this year will make up 20 billion roubles as against 14 billion roubles in 1991. The volume of responsibility under the obligations assumed will surpass 500 billion roubles. The Russian Insurance Company now has agreements with the population worth over 150 million roubles.

Regrettably, the organisation of the insurance market in Russia is hampered by the lack of the legislative basis of the legal state regulation. An early adoption of the law on insurance is needed in this connection, Shakhov said.

Arms Remain Main High-Tech Exports

PM2008143992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 12 Aug 92

[From the "M-Trust" program: Video report by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent over video of aircraft being assembled] This is a legacy which we simply cannot pass up. Unfortunately, not everyone understands this.

[Correspondent to camera against backdrop of aircraft assembly hall] Here is what U.S. correspondents say about our conversion. Exports from Russia of so-called high-technology equipment primarily relate to military production.

There still is a world arms market, and our MiG-29 fighters are in particular demand. They are viewed abroad as a very modern and reliable aircraft. Naturally, apart from the quality, capabilities, and reliability of the arms, buyers, who include not only Arab and African countries but also European countries, are also attracted by the price, which is lower than that of similar products made by U.S. or West European companies.

Russian firearms, in particular the renowned Kalashnikov assault rifles and especially the latest AK-74 model, also enjoy a high reputation. In the West, for example, one of the old Kalashnikov design bureau models, the AK-47, is favored by terrorists and gangsters. In the United States this rifle fetches around $400. The designer says that a weapon cannot be blamed for the purposes for which it is used. Responsibility for the use of a weapon must rest with the individual. [video shows closeups of aircraft assembly, correspondent in aircraft assembly hall, MiG-29's in flight, Kalashnikov rifle assembly, testing, and packaging, designer being interviewed]

Economic Decrees, Resolutions Issued

On State Employee Wages

LD2008055592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia today signed a decree on additional measures for improving the wages of the employees of institutions and organizations financed from the state budget. The document envisages a 1.5 times increase of the salaries and tariffs for education, culture, and social workers in the organizations being financed from the state budget from 1 September this year.

The president of Russia's decree also envisages an increase of the servicemen's allowance. In accordance with the document, a revision of the salaries of the workers in the organizations financed from the budget will be carried out on the basis of the new single wage scale the procedure for introduction of which will be established by the Russian Federation's Government.

On Foreign Investment Group

OW1908211492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1512 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree to disband the Russian Ministry of Finance Foreign Investment Committee. The committee's functions are being transferred to the re-established Russian International Collaboration and Development Agency (RICDA) headed by First Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who will be responsible for the government's hard currency financial policy.

In accordance with the decree, the agency will be responsible for co-ordinating links with other states and international organisations in investment, financial, humanitarian, cultural, and technological collaboration and technological cosultancy. Stock previously owned by the Union of Soviet Friendship and Cultural Societies with overseas nations in Russia and abroad will be transferred to the Agency, as will the property of the Russian Governmental Commission for International Humanitarian and Technological Aid. The RICDA should be established by the middle of September.

One high ranking Foreign Investment Committee official told IF [INTERFAX] that the new Russian Agency will undertake the same liabilities by which the committee was formerly bound.

On Use of Natural Resources

LD2008190292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on excise on the use of natural resources on Russia's territory.

At point is, first and foremost, excise levied on oil and gas producing enterprises that are engaged in the development of the best and the most profitable fields.

The decree will stimulate the more efficient exploitation of wells and will stave off the rapacious use of natural resources. The funds from the excise will accrue to Russia's budget.

The new enactment is part of the presidential decrees associated with the provision of legal support to economic reform in Russia, Press Secretary of the Russian President Vyacheslav Kostikov said.

On Administrative Fines

PM2008115692 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Fines"]

[Text] B. Yeltsin has signed a law on the procedure for recalculating the size of fines for administrative violations. If a fine was formerly not more than 10 rubles [R], it will now be equal to one-tenth of the minimum monthly wage. If a fine was formerly R3,000, it will now be equal to 10 times the minimum wage.

On Aid to Fishing Industry

LD1908231492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] The Russian Government has adopted a resolution on urgent measures for state support of the Russian fishing industry. This document is directed at resolving the problems of supplying the populace with fish products, reports ITAR-TASS. It is planned to allocate this year a sum of over 5 billion rubles for the needs of the Russian fishing industry. The government has also decided to offset over 30 percent of the expenditure on acquiring fuel and energy resources to those enterprises that are engaged in catching, processing, and transporting fish and marine products.

Humanitarian Aid Figures for Jan-Jul Reported

LD1708183592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 17 TASS—Russia has received a total of 374,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid between January and July 1992.

About 52,400 tonnes of supplies were distributed between schools, boarding schools, hospitals, senior citizens' homes, disabled people and lower income families, including 45,000 tonnes of food, 2,100 tonnes of medicines, 1,000 tonnes of medical equipment, 1,200 tonnes of clothes and footwear and 3,100 tonnes of other goods.

A total of 1,154 tonnes of aid supplies were sold through retail trade.

Aid Program for Manufacturers To Be Drafted

OW2008170792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decision was taken to draw up an economic aid programme for industrial sectors producing consumer goods at a meeting of ministerial and institutional representatives in Moscow on Thursday [20 August]. The meeting was chaired by First Russian Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko. Its participants concluded that state protectionism does not impede the progress of industrial reform. Moreover, state assistance must be extended to enterprises with different types of ownership with the aim of turning around the fall in production of everyday goods. The programme will be submitted to the government for approval after it is given the go ahead by representatives of all sectors concerned.

Saltykov Remarks on 'Brain Drain' Issue

LD1808162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0428 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow August 18 TASS—"Brain drain" from Russia poses a serious problem, but should not be exaggerated, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Boris Saltykov.

It is a "drama, but not a tragedy", he told the "Echo Moskviy" radio station late on Monday [17 August].

Saltykov, who is also minister of higher education and technical policy, said he can understand why scientists are leaving the country. On average "our researcher receives one hundred times less than his Western colleague", he explained.

The Russian Government "has nothing special to boast of", Saltykov said, adding that he succeeded to establish a fund for fundamental research which is to help scientists in creating the material and technical base for their research.

"I have always belonged to the team of (Yegor) Gaydar", the deputy prime minister said. The old administrative structure in the field of science is being eliminated. "If a man is talented he will be able to become an academician without occupying top positions", Saltykov said.

Agricultural Issues

Rutskoy Interviewed on Harvest Progress

LD1908173592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Interview with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by correspondent V. Perfilyev in an office; date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Perfilyev] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, this is the time when we traditionally think of the harvest, how we will face the coming winter, and with what. In your opinion, what should we be hoping for now?

[Rutskoy] You know, the gathering of the harvest and procurement of produce is proceeding with difficulty, but it is more or less being accomplished. Regarding the degree to which state procurement orders have been met, two weeks ago it was 3 percent and today it is already 30 percent.

[Perfilyev] The grain harvest has become a kind of political football. Some politicians say there will be hunger, others say that there won't. What really lies in store?

[Rutskoy] On the whole, and even allowing for the 18 oblasts where yields are down because of drought, the figures show that we will manage to bring in about 95 million tonnes of grain, I think. The accepted calculation is that we need about 120, so the result is...

[Perfilyev, interrupting] Tonnes per head, yes?

[Rutskoy] Right, so we will have to buy in about 25 million tonnes. I think that it is time for us to change our usual markets for grain purchases, because we should look for contracts on better terms.

Comments on Harvest Decree

PM2008154592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 2

[Valeriy Konovalov report: "Gloomy Food Production Forecasts Not Borne Out"]

[Text] At the latest session of the harvesting operations staff Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy submitted a draft Russian Federation presidential decree outlining tough measures to ensure the safekeeping of the harvest. But Viktor Khlystun, Russian minister of agriculture, stated at a news conference that the final version of the decree would be considerably watered down, and that agricultural producers should be given more freedom in selling their products.

The draft document submitted by the A. Rutskoy team envisages stringent administrative controls over the sale and shipment of grain and other agricultural products, the extensive involvement of law-enforcement forces for these purposes, the tightening up of customs barriers, a ban on farms' selling grain before they have fulfilled their state deliveries, and the confiscation of any profits made if they do... The draft decree has now been sent to the relevant departments—including the Ministry of Agriculture—for finalization. Judging by everything, V. Khlystun's department is indeed proposing a considerably altered version of the document, whose gist is to emphasize economic rather than administrative levers, to guarantee merely the required minimum of state grain resources, and to give peasants an extensive range of opportunities for determining their partners and sales channels.

The work on the draft presidential decree is typical of the current "diarchy" in the agrarian sphere. Alongside the current Ministry of Agriculture a parallel structure under the auspices of A. Rutskoy is being set up—the federal center for agrarian reform, whose leader, V. Yermolenko, has received ministerial rank. This "competition" will hardly benefit matters. Extra "headquarters," "centers," and so forth are appropriate when stepping up administrative pressure on the countryside. Whereas, in V. Khlystun's opinion, today's situation in the rural economy requires a weakening of administrative fetters and the economic liberation of peasants.

Despite the serious difficulties in the production and purchasing of agricultural products, in the agriculture minister's view there are no grounds for panic and, on the whole, agrarian reform is moving forward confidently. The gloomy forecasts about the inevitable collapse of harvesting work have not been borne out. The grain harvest will be 92-97 million tonnes (last year it was 82 million tonnes) and 58 million tonnes have already been threshed. The vegetable harvest will turn out to be pretty good. The potato situation is somewhat worse, but even there the crop as a whole will be adequate, it will simply be necessary to move produce from region to region owing to tangible variations in yields.

In stockraising, as was expected, the situation is difficult, mainly because of a shortage of mixed feed supplies. But the reduction in herds has been considerably less than expected—just 0.2 percent for cattle for instance; the biggest losses (19 percent) have been in poultry farming. But it has nonetheless been possible to resolve the main task—preserving the breeding herd. It has become obvious that stockraising cannot be stabilized without increasing state subsidies.

Regarding the forthcoming privatization of enterprises processing agricultural output, the minister announced that a program has been elaborated which will not permit any processing monopolies. These enterprises will be co-owned by peasants.

Curious processes have begun in the reform of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Whereas until recently most of them strove with might and main to be on the list of farms unsuitable for reform, nowadays there are more and more requests to be permitted to "come off" this list and turn into joint-stock enterprises, for instance. The proportion of private farmers is food production is gradually increasing. As is the number of local leaders (around 2,000) who have been fined for opposing private farming.

Agriculture Minister Holds News Conference

LD1908212892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (BUSINESS-TASS)—"Purchases of grain from abroad will remain at the previous level and will amount to 10 million tonnes, of which 3 million tonnes will be purchased by Russia from Kazakhstan," Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun stated at a meeting with journalists today.

Concerning the overall state of affairs in agriculture, he stressed that the forecasts which were made at the beginning of the year have not come true. Instead of 114 million tonnes, the expected harvest of grain crops will amount to 97 million tonnes.

Khlystun noted that the yield overall is somewhat higher than in 1991 and amounts to some 22 quintals per hectare. As of 17 August grain crops had been reaped from 49 percent of the total area, grain crops had been threshed on an area of 45 percent, and 58 million tonnes of grain had been threshed.

The minister said more vegetables will be produced than last year. The state of affairs regarding potatoes is worse. Despite the increase in the acreage, the crop harvest will not exceed 31 million tonnes. "Overall, we can say with complete confidence that we will be supplied with agricultural products to meet the level of minimum requirements," Viktor Khlystun said in conclusion.

Lack of Foodstuffs on Sale in Cities Reported

PM1908152592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 First Edition p 4

[AEN report: "Stores Empty"]

[Text] On 4 August—the date of the latest registration of prices at 132 Russian industrial cities—staffers at the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics recorded the absence of rye bread in 111 cities, rye-wheat (black) bread in 61 cities, wheat (white) bread made out of milled flour in 127 cities, wheat bread made out of premium-grade flour in 68 cities, and wheat bread made out of grade one and grade two flour in 39 cities.

On the same day the following commodities were not on sale in retail outlets—potatoes in 50 cities, carrots in 79, Russian-style cigarettes in 99, and filter cigarettes in 75. Processed cheese was not available through retail outlets in 85 cities, fresh fish was not on sale in stores in 111 cities, nor was herring (including large herring) in 88 cities.

Session Reviews Harvest, Procurement Data

PM1908142992 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 18 Aug 92 p 1

[Yevgeniy Sosnin report: "Return to Grain Requisition? Draft Decree on Safekeeping of Agricultural Produce Prepared"]

[Text] Every day brings fresh news to the editorial office about the battles over grain. It must be bluntly stated that the situation in early August is simply catastrophic.

With a view to ensuring stable supplies of food resources and to increasing grain producers' interest in carrying out their mandatory grain shipments, the Russian Government on 12 August adopted a resolution which obliges procurement enterprises to purchase grain at the prices prevailing in the grain market and to settle accounts [osushchestvit pereraschet] with grain suppliers within two weeks.

This step has altered the grain procurement situation somewhat. In a number of areas the pace of grain sales to the state noticeably increased straightaway.

But, on the whole, Russian kolkhozes and sovkhozes—as was reported at the session of the Operations Staff for the Harvest, held in the Kremlin Saturday 15 August with Russian Vice President A. Rutskoy in the chair—the pace of the harvest campaign and grain procurements for state resources has been one of the highest seen over the past three years. According to Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture figures, 45.5 million tonnes of grain have already been threshed on 19 million hectares of land. The lag in the pace of the harvest campaign compared with last year has been reduced from 12 to seven days since last week.

By mid-August, according to figures from the Committee for Grain Products, 8.5 million tonnes of grain—or 29 percent of planned shipments—had already been purchased for state resources. But a week ago this indicator was only at the 4 percent mark.

The session of the Operations Staff for the Harvest also noted the impermissibility of reducing volumes of planned deliveries to state resources for certain regions which are making such requests to the government.

One of the poignant moments during the Operations Staff session was the Russian president's draft decree on additional measures to improve the safekeeping of the new harvest. In particular, it establishes the responsibility of officials who fail to secure the harvest and grain procurements, brings in fines for holdups to railcars, and also prohibits grain producers from selling grain as they see fit and exporting it to other areas "before they have fulfilled their contractual commitments for deliveries to state resources."

The draft document is still at the finalization stage. But the "ripples in the water" have already disappeared. Some specialists tend to view measures banning the free sale of grain by commodity producers as nonsensical in market-economy conditions. Others believe that this step is entirely justified in the current situation.

In short, there are more questions than answers. But the main issue is—will this grain requisitioning scare off kolkhozes and sovkhozes with the result that the flow of grain to silos dries up once again?

Grain Purchases Down 39 Percent

LD2108050992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation with grain purchases today, according to the state statistics committee [Goskomstat], is as follows: 39 percent less grain was purchased than on the same day last year.

According to reports received today from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic relations, deliveries of grain to Russia from Australia have been halted. From Canada, they were halted a little earlier. This is connected to financial debts.

Minister on 1992 Potato Harvest Expectations

LD1908203492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] The potato harvest in Russia will come to approximately 31 million tonnes this year, which is less than last year's level. This was stated at a news conference in Moscow by Russian Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun. RIA reports that he said the vegetable harvest would be somewhat higher than last year. Khlystun also stated that there has been no catastrophic decline in livestock numbers in Russia as a result of the acute fodder shortage. The greatest losses have been recorded in poultry and pig raising, the minister stated.

Aggrieved Agro-Industrialists Appeal to Yeltsin

PM1408142792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Aug 92 p 2

[Open letter to Russian President B.N. Yeltsin, signed by the Coordinating Council for Collective Actions by the Working People of the Agro-Industrial Complex, dated 12 August 1992, and published "with abridgments" under the heading "The Countryside Is in Difficulties—Russia Is Hungry. The Initiators of 'Peasants' Collective Actions' Address Open Letter to the Russian President"]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

Representatives of the Agro-Industrial Complex Employees Trade Union and the Russian Agrarian Union held an All-Russian Assembly in Moscow on 3 and 4 June, which discussed the extremely critical situation which has arisen in the countryside and disclosed mistakes committed in the conduct of agrarian policy which have impoverished the majority of rural commodity producers and brought them to a state of financial collapse. The All-Union Assembly adopted a resolution and elaborated a package of demands addressed to the president, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and the government—demands whose fulfillment, in our opinion, would significantly stabilize the situation in the countryside.

The Agro-Industrial Complex Trade Union Central Committee Plenum, which took place on 24 June, vested the coordinating council with the functions of a strike committee. It approved the demands adopted by the All-Russian Assembly and condemned the government's economic policy toward Russia's agriculture as unacceptable. The documents of the assembly and of the plenum were delivered to the Russian Supreme Soviet and the government.

However, the adoption of radical decisions on vitally important issues of the agro-industrial complex affecting the basic interests of all the inhabitants of Russia has been torpedoed time after time. The proposals made repeatedly to the government by the trade union central committee and the Russian Agrarian Union have been ignored. The same attitude has been displayed by the country's leadership to the demands adopted by the All-Russian Assembly.

Telegrams sent by the trade union central committee and the Agrarian Union to Comrades R.I. Khasbulatov and Ye.T. Gaydar about a meeting with representatives of the coordinating committee to review our proposals have been left unanswered and the work schedule of the conciliation commission is not being observed.

All this testifies to a continuing underestimatation by state leaders and officials of the extreme difficulty of the situation in agro-industrial production, especially in agriculture.

The half-measures being adopted by the government are not ensuring the stabilization of production in agro-industrial complex sectors and are provoking discontent and protest among peasants. The criticial situation in the countryside has already brought peasants to a prestrike condition. Strike committees are being set up in the localities, and working collectives are issuing demands for coordinated peasant actions to be organized in defense of peasants' lawful interests. On 5 August a Day of Peasant Unity was held in most regions of the country, on which peasants demonstrated decisiveness in standing up for their rights, and insisted that the government fulfill the demands put forward by the All-Russian Assembly, up to and including holding strikes and other collective actions.

The coordinating council appealed to the labor collectives of enterprises and the working people of the agro-industrial complex and to all kolkhoz workers, employees of sovkhozes and of other forms of farm management, and private farmers, to carry out harvest work, despite the existing difficulties, in an organized fashion, not to allow losses in a harvest grown in difficult conditions, and to show great responsibility for providing Russians with food products.

This is why we are forced to appeal to you, esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, requesting and proposing that the government be instructed to immediately review together with the coordinating council questions posed at the All-Russian Assembly and adopt a decision on them.

If the lawful demands of peasants and all rural commodity producers continue to be ignored, we reserve the right, in strict accordance with the powers delegated to us, to support the numerous demands of the sector's working people for coordinated collective actions.

[Signed] The Coordinating Council for Collective Actions by the Working People of the Agro-Industrial Complex

12 August 1992.

Regional Affairs

North Caucasian Republics Discuss Abkhazia

LD2008165392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1539 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Victor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Armavir August 20 TASS—Leaders of Adygeya, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachaevo-Cherkassia, North Ossetia, Krasnodar and Stavropol territories and Rostov region held an extraordinary meeting in Armavir. The participants of the meeting considered the "emergency situation in the Republic of Abkhazia and in the North Caucasian region arising out of the movement of the Georgian troops into Abkhazia" behind the closed doors. Regarding this they adopted an appeal to President of Russia Boris Yeltsin which will be handed over to him by a specially formed delegation. The delegation can, probably, hold talks with the president regarding Russia's participation together with representatives of the region in finding a solution to the conflict in Abkhazia.

Leaders of North Caucasian republics and territories also decided to take urgent measures to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Abkhazia. A permanent consultative committee, consisting of the top leaders of the executive and legislative bodies of national-state and territorial formations will be formed to ensure security and cooperation in the North Caucasian region.

Urge Georgian Troop Withdrawal

PM2008145192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report on appeal signed by Adyge, Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkar, Karachayevo-Cherkess, Krasnodar, and Stavropol leaders: "Withdraw Georgian Troops From Abkhazia"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Withdraw Georgian troops from Abkhazia. That is the appeal made by republic supreme soviets and governments, kray soviets, and administration heads in the North Caucasus to the Georgian State Council and Government, the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet and Government, and the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples.

We viewed with tremendous alarm the introduction of Georgian troops into Abkhaz territory, the appeal says. A dangerous new seat of interethnic conflict has emerged in the Caucasus, threatening unpredictable consequences. Our pain and alarm are very natural. The peoples of the North Caucasus have age-old historical good-neighborly ties with both the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples.

We think that contentious issues should not be resolved by force of arms today. There are enough tragic lessons to that effect. Peace talks are the only means of resolving conflicts.

We are sure that the wisdom and considered approach that the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples have always displayed will help overcome this crisis and will prevent them from falling hostage to a shortsighted policy.

We urge the Georgian and Abkhaz leadership to immediately suspend armed operations, withdraw Georgian troops from Abkhazia, and embark on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The appeal was signed by the following:

From the Republic of Adyge: President A. Dzharimov; A. Tleuzh, Supreme Soviet chairman;

From the Republic of Dagestan: M. Magomedov, Supreme Soviet chairman; A. Mirzabekov, chairman of the Council of Ministers;

From the Kabardino-Balkar Republic: President V. Kokov; Kh. Karmokov, Supreme Soviet chairman; G. Cherkesov, chairman of the Council of Ministers;

From the Republic of Karachayevo-Cherkesia: V. Khubiyev, acting administration head; V. Savelyev, chairman of the Soviet of People's Deputies;

From Krasnodar Kray: V. Dyakonov, kray administration head; V. Molyarenko, deputy chairman of the kray Soviet of People's Deputies;

From Stavropol Kray: A. Shiyanov, first deputy administration head; Yu. Burlutskiy, deputy chairman of the kray Soviet of People's Deputies.

Mountain People Threaten Georgia Over Abkhazia

LD1908174692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the parliament of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus ended on 18 August in Groznyy. The resolution adopted at the session contains a demand to withdraw Georgian troops from the territory of Abkhazia before 21 August and to provide compensation for the damage inflicted during the occupation. If the occupation of Abkhazia continues, the Confederation of Mountain Peoples will declare the beginning of military action against Georgia, with all the ensuing consequences. The resolution also notes that the leaders of the Caucasian republics must resolutely dissociate themselves from the policies of the Russian leadership in Abkhazia. The resolution demands the withdrawal of airborne assault units from Abkhazia and denounces the Federation Treaty with Russia, adopting in its place a joint declaration on a confederative union of the republics of the northern Caucasus.

Chechen Leader Refuses To Arm Volunteers

LD1908214992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Test] The Chechen president has refused to issue weapons to the volunteers who, under the flag of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus, are making their way in small groups to Abkhazia. Dudayev declared that he supports the volunteers' wish to champion the independence of Abkhazia with arms in hand, but he stressed that the issuing of weapons, in his view, will constitute an instance of interference in the internal affairs of Georgia.

Regional Leaders Demand Right To Control Taxes

PM2008102992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 First Edition p 2

[Account by Kliment Ivanov, chairman of Sakha Supreme Soviet, under the "Nationalities Policy" rubric: "No Boycott, But World Practice"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Yakutsk—As the press has reported, the leaders of three Russian Federation republics—Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and Sakha (Yakutia)—have stated that they will be forced to adopt measures to neutralize the economic blockade and continue to strengthen state sovereignty. They have accused the center of ignoring the republics' legal rights and interests and are predicting that relations with Moscow will be exacerbated.

Kliment Ivanov, chairman of the Sakha (Yakutia) Supreme Soviet, explains his stance:

"The republic law on the budget system, which, incidentally, does not contravene the analogous Russian law, was adopted by our Supreme Soviet back in February of this year. So in the light of the statement made by the three, there was nothing that was unexpected, and particularly nothing opportunistic, in the republics' stance, nor did it involve anything that infringes the interests of the Federation, nor could it involve anything like that. In Yakutia we are simply proposing to improve the mutual settlement of financial and budget accounts within the Federation. Because the current practice in Russia—that all resources are first gathered into the central treasury and then distributed in the form of budget allocations, as if to those who deserve them—is economically disadvantageous for the Federation and its subjects. It was done that way in the past, and we have experienced it and do not want to return to the old ways.

"Our position and proposals are as follows: The tax that the republic has to pay into the Russian budget should stay at home in its entirety. We, for our part, will levy taxes to finance the federal departments that operate in our republic. There are a lot of them. Incidentally, we allocate around 3 billion rubles from the budget annually to geologists, river transport workers, aviators, and so on in question—that is, we propose that the Russian tax part be counted in at local level. Following the mutual settlement of accounts, if there is any "Russian" money left over, we will immediately transfer it to the federal budget. In a word, this is not a question of a boycott on the payment of part of the taxes or on anything else. In this way, enormous resources will not rush back and forth or be excluded from circulation for an indefinite period of time, as is the case at present, and valuable time—which, as we know, also means money—will not be wasted. Incidentally, this is world practice. That is how they operate in Austria, for example. We suggested that the Russian Government should conclude a bilateral agreement on taxation according to the scheme I have described, but unfortunately, they did not listen at first. The situation seems to be changing now."

Tartarstan To Meet 1992 Budget Obligations

OW2108003392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that Tartar Prime Minister Mukhamad Sabirov told Russian Acting Premier

Yegor Gaydar that in Kazan the text of the joint statement by Tartarstan, Bashkortostan and Yakutsk on the Russian budget for 1992 was known to exist. The Tartar prime minister also said that no signatures from Kazan were on the document.

Gaydar told an INTERFAX correspondent that an agreement was signed at the Thursday [20 August] meeting that "Tartarstan will entirely fulfill its financial obligations to Russia as required by the 1992 budget and Russian legislation". Russia in turn "will ensure the maintainance of federally-funded programs in Tartarstan".

Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Kazakhstan Sign Accords

LD1908225192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] On the anniversary of the August putsch, which, as you know, brought the Union to a state of collapse, might there not occur events leading to a split in the Russian Federation? Of course the answer is no; far from it, the independence shown in interstate relations between Tatarstan and Bashkortostan is bringing stability, economic prosperity, and democratic change to these republics and to Russia itself.

Two documents were signed after the meeting between the presidents of Kazakhstan and Tatarstan and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Bashkortostan—a communique on interstate relations and a statement on the events taking place in Abkhazia. The sides will encourage the establishment of direct cooperation between those involved in economic activity, develop production cooperation on a long-term basis for the joint utilization of resources, minerals, industrial, agricultural, and scientific-technical potential, and an operational solution to questions of mutual supplies of petroleum products and grain and the organization of the bread-grain harvest.

St. Petersburg Militia Clashes With 'Mafia'

PM2008114892 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 92 p 1

[A. Podkopalov report: "Red Hundreds?"]

[Text] In the past week the mass media have reported clashes between the St. Petersburg militia and "persons of Caucasian nationality." Some experts think this is the start of a local war between the militia and the "Caucasian mafia," others see the events as a skillfully organized provocation for political purposes. In support of the latter theory they cite the joint appeal to the oblast leadership and the public by A. Antonov, leader of the St. Petersburg militia trade union, and Yu. Belyayev, a "representative of Russian national organizations." The latter is simultaneously a criminal investigations worker and chairman of the people's social party, an openly nationalist organization. According to Yu. Belyayev, the statement sent to the mayor, the St. Petersburg Soviet chairman, and the prosecutor of St. Petersburg and the oblast draws attention to the "terror unleashed by Caucasians against militia workers and the city's population" and contains a demand for tough and resolute measures to be adopted to "clamp down on outrages."

The situation is unpredictable in that Yu. Belyayev and his supporters do not intend to sit quietly looking on, and have announced the creation, in the near future, of a "public headquarters for combating crime," which will include the pro-communist Council of Working People and Russian nationalist organizations of St. Petersburg. A familiar move. And it indicates that it is not a question of combating crime, but of the desire to extract political dividends from a really serious situation. This is evidence of the desire to represent themselves as the sole effective alternative to the "impotent and corrupt" democratic authorities.

Guards Urge Revision of Economic Zone Laws

LD2008110492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1230 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka August 19 TASS—"The northeastern Economic Zone of Russia, covering an area of about three million square kilometres and accounting for a third of the country's entire economic zone, is, according to expert estimates, the most productive area of the world ocean," TASS was told by Assistant Commander of the Northeastern Border Guard Area Rear-Admiral Eduard Tkachenko. As of 1989 the situation there was marked by tougher measures taken by the United States and Japan to protect the natural resources of their respective economic zones and growing attempts by foreign firms to infiltrate the offshore economic zone of Russia.

The activities of various joint enterprises and the conclusion of agreements and contracts on fishing there have assumed broad scope. The number of such enterprises is growing annually. It has increased from 17 in 1989 to 80 today. "It is the Border Guard Area's priority task to protect the economic zone," the rear-admiral said. "It is regarded by border guards as protection of Russia's political and economic interests in the northeast."

"The lagging of Russian legislation behind the actual situation in the zone is now the main obstacle to the fulfilment of this task," Tkachenko noted. "We have no legal acts, laying down the procedure for setting up, registering and operating joint-stock enterprises, formed with the participation of foreign firms. We possess no mechanisms to control their activities. It is necessary to revise the rights vested in bodies protecting the offshore economic zone," he said.

"The border guards, who have enough strength and means, have no right to bring to answer ships violating the zone. This is not envisaged in the present legislation. The same refers to the protection of the region's main wealth—anadromous species of fish—outside the economic zone, where border guards are allowed only to render aid to fishing inspection authorities."

The rear-admiral noted that a treaty, signed this February by Russia, the United States, Canada and Japan, prohibits the open-sea fishing of salmon outside the economic zones of Russia and the United States as of 1992. "Efficient control over its implementation must be established. This year Russian border guards have already taken measures to discharge this task jointly with the Coastal Guard of the United States," Tkachenko stated.

The problem of protecting the offshore economic zone is not new. It was discussed by the Russian parliament, repeatedly raised by the Kamchatka Regional Administration and the command of the Northeastern Border Area when the peninsula was visited by Russian Vice-Premier Valeriy Makharadze and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. "Our border guards," the rear-admiral said, "need laws that would correspond to the actually existing situation and prospects of its development."

Tkachenko expressed the hope that endorsement of a new concept would contribute to the urgent adoption of legislative acts in the political and economic interests of Russia.

International Affairs

Death of UN Soldier in Sarajevo Reported

LD2108081592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Excerpt] A Ukrainian soldier in the UN contingent was killed today by a sniper in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. This happened at the Marshall Tito barracks. The Ukrainian was wounded in the chest and died soon afterwards in the hospital. His name and rank have not been reported. Earlier, another Ukrainian serviceman from the Ukrainian UN contingent died in Sarajevo. Several other men were wounded. They were operating a radar in order to identify a cannon that was firing in the Bosnian capital. [passage omitted]

Kiev, Moscow Arrange Exchange of Prisoners

OW2108005692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The prisoner exchange between Ukraine and Russia is being continued. Interior Ministry Corrections Department head Sergey Stupkin told the agency KHARKOVNEWS that prisoners who were tried by Russian courts or are residents of Russia are being returned to the republic upon their written request. Stupkin said that Ukraine is returning three times less prisoners to Russia than Russia has sent to Ukraine.

Deputy Director of the Kharkov Corrective Labor Authority Valeriy Lashin said that as of June 30, 793 prisoners were sent to Ukraine from Russia through the Kharkov isolation ward, and that 290 prisoners were sent from Ukraine to Russia. He also said that 108 inmates of the Kharkov prison who were tried by Russian courts refused to return to Russia.

Russia Not To Arm PRC-Purchased Carrier

AU1908131092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] China was seriously considering a possibility of concluding an agreement with Ukraine on purchasing the aircraft carrier "Varyag" that was being built at Nikolayev shipyards. However, it has in fact, given up this plan because, under present conditions, Russia would hardly supply weapons and electronic equipment for ultimately fitting out the ship. This was stated today by the KYODO TSUSIN Agency with a reference to sources in the government of the Russian Federation. According to them, Beijing was really interested in acquiring "Varyag" with a view to fulfill its plans for qualitatively strengthening its naval forces and intensifying China's naval presence in the Pacific.

This year, according to some information, Chinese specialists secretly visited Ukraine to establish preliminary contacts on the territory where, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the unfinished cruiser has found itself. However, the negotiations on the purchase ended without any results because of the unresolved problem of providing "Varyag" with combat equipment; it continues to be left without the necessary control panel and armaments. They were expected to arrive from Russia, but Moscow is delaying their delivery because there is a real possibility that the aircraft carrying cruiser may be included in Ukraine's Navy. As a result, the prospects for completing the building of the ship still remain unclear.

Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives in Kiev

LD1808162392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0629 GMT 18 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 18 TASS—A delegation of the National People's Congress [NPC] of China led by Deputy Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee Seypidin is expected to arrive in the Ukrainian capital on Tuesday [18 August]. The delegation will hold talks with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) Ivan Plyushch, representative of the Ukrainian President in Kiev Ivan Saliya and will visit the Supreme Soviet Commission for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the republic. Members of the delegation will take part in a meeting to mark the day of independence of Ukraine, which is celebrated on August 24.

The Chinese guests will also visit Lvov and Odessa.

National Affairs

Cabinet Publishes New Appointments

AU2108074392 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 7 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet has appointed Chystyakov, Oleksiy Mykytovych, as Ukraine's deputy internal affairs minister—chief of the Criminal Investigation Militia.

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Kovba, Ivan Volodymyrovych, has been appointed as deputy chairman of Ukraine's State Committee for the Press.

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Zinchenko, Arsen Leonidovych, has been appointed as first deputy chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

Pylypenko, Pavlo Dmytrovych, has been relieved of these duties upon his retirement.

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Novytskyy, Volodymyr Stanislavovych, has been appointed first deputy and Osaulenko, Hryhoriy Hryhorovych—as deputy industry minister of Ukraine.

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Herasymenko, Vasyl Mykhaylovych; Doniy, Valeriy Mykolayovych; Kanishchenko, Leonid Oleksiyovych; Klymenko, Hennadiy Oleksiyovych; Nevesenko, Viktor Ivanovych; Simak, Anatoliy Danylovych; Sokol, Vitaliy Vasylyovych; Stepko, Mykhaylo Fylymonovych; and Shmatok, Lyudmyla Hryhorivna have been approved as members of the board of Ukraine's Education Ministry.

Serdyuk, Yuriy Oleksandrovych has been appointed as Ukraine's deputy culture minister.

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Rybachuk, Viktor Pavlovych—as Ukraine's first deputy environmental protection minister—chief state inspector of Ukraine for environmental protection.

Lipinskyy, Vyacheslav Mykolayovych—as Ukraine's deputy environmental protection minister.

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Tolmachov, Valentyn Vasylyovych—as Ukraine's deputy chairman of the State Committee for Coal Industry—chief of administration for machine building, electromechanic services, and maintenance of equipment.

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Papakin, Heorhiy Volodymyrovych and Pyroh, Ruslan Yakovych—as members of the board of Ukraine's Main Archival Administration at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

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Pidlisnyuk, Viktor Vasylyovych has been appointed as leader of a group of experts for questions of commodities and services market at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

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Semenets, Oleh Yevhenovych has been appointed as deputy chairman of Ukraine's National Center for Implementing International Technological Assistance to Ukraine.

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Hrevtsov, Vyacheslav Dmytrovych; Sozinov, Oleksiy Oleksiyovych; and Bezpalyy, Borys Fedorovych have been approved as members of the board of Ukraine's Agriculture and Foodstuffs Ministry.

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Zayets, Oleksandr Semenovych; Zinchenko, Lyudmyla Ivanivna; Kyrychenko, Ivan Yevdokymovych; and Starkova Klara Petrivna have been approved as members of the board of Ukraine's State Committee for Foodstuffs Industry.

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Kharchenko, Ihor Petrovych has been appointed as leader of a group of experts for questions of social and labor relations and ties with trade unions at Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

Further on New Appointments

AU2008173592 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Aug 92 p 2

[Text] Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has appointed Lytvynov, Anatoliy Maksymovych, as first deputy and Myshanych, Oleksa Vasylyovych, as deputy chairman of Ukraine's Higher Examination Board; and Boyko, Roman Volodymyrovych, as scientific secretary of Ukraine's Higher Examination Board.

Danylchenko, Volodymyr Vasylyovych; Kuzenkov, Yuriy Dmytrovych; and Novikov, Ivan Mykolayovych were appointed members of the board of Ukraine's Ministry of Industry.

Honcharuk, Andriy Ivanovych; Lytvynov, Serhiy Ivanovych; and Kalha, Vitaliy Volodymyrovych as members of the board of the Ministry of External Economic Relations and Trade.

Kravchuk Comments on Economy, Nuclear Weapons

LD2108034592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 18 Aug 92

[Report by unidentified correspondent on news conference by President Leonid Kravchuk with recorded remarks from Kravchuk; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] During the course of this truly historic year, the word independence has been heard quite often [words indistinct] we took pleasure in it, listened to its melody and experienced some euphoria. [passage omitted]

In his introduction at the news conference, President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine said that the main point is to analyze the pluses and minuses of this independence, which has been achieved in a short, but protracted time, that the Ukrainian people have gone through in building their independence.

However, Leonid Kravchuk immediately remarked that we do not aspire to verbosity and ostentation.

[Kravchuk] Through this celebration, we would like [words indistinct] the idea of unity of structures around the building of a democratic, lawful state of our [word indistinct]. We would like this to be the determining theme, because history teaches us—and we can already see this from our own experience—that only unity around the main task can give us the chance to survive, to build a state, and to live in an independent Ukrainian state. This is already an axiom from, once again I repeat, our own history.

We would like everyone, both citizens of Ukraine and of the world community, to understand that this celebration is not to stress the great successes during the year of our existence. We do not want to be understood in such a way, as if we want to conceal the difficulties and intricacies that exist behind loud speeches and words, but our celebration should testify to the main thing: that the Ukrainian state exists. It lives, struggles, debates, and discusses, but it exists, and this is the most important thing, in addition to the fact that we want to mark the anniversary of independence. [passage omitted]

Ukraine exists as a state; 123 countries have already recognized it, and more than 80 have diplomatic relations with us.

We have our own armed forces. They are not yet completely formed, but they exist. We have our own political institutions of power, there is absolutely, I stress, formally and nominally, an independent economy. We simply cannot untie those ends and relations which lead—I would not even say it that way, not to untie, but to place these relations on an independent basis. They must not be broken, they cannot be cut off, and it is unnecessary to do this, not with Russia, Belarus, or others. They should be merely placed on an objective, natural, and just basis. We cannot do this yet.

We will go over to our own currency, to our own credit, financial, and other systems, and we will do this and build normal relations on world prices and on regularities. This is not something so difficult that it cannot be done. It could be carried out if there's a will. This is why I believe that our state and people have done a great deal in the year of the state's existence. However, at present, the most terrible and most difficult thing is the economic crisis. If we all understand this and if we do everything to emerge from the economic crisis, not to ruin the foundation which we have already laid so laboriously; brick by brick we built, and built, and built. Somebody is always wanting to move these bricks away.

[Correspondent] Leonid Kravchuk named those who were trying to pull these bricks from under the foundation of the young state. Today, these are the individual managers of collective farms who are boycotting the surrender of grain. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] Having announced the program of economic transformations and economic reform, and having announced the levers of transfer to a different economy, to the market economy, which is directed, I would say, is self-regulated, under pressure, they have immediately rejected, under the pressure of this situation and others, state regulation and misunderstood it—they understood state regulation as direct interference in production. These are different things.

At present, I have the point of view that the state, in this case the government, the executive power, does not have the need or requirement to interfere directly in the production process. However, the government state does not have the right to give up regulation, in particular, of economic levers—these are prices, salaries, taxes, customs, the whole financial structure, the credit structure, rates, and such. This whole complex should be engaged and should work together in unity for the regulation of all the processes in economic life. This is why they were rather hasty, so as to say, to transfer everything to the collectives. However, the collectives, with all respect to them, are governed by their own interests, and nobody refuses to do less and receive more. This is how it is, although it does not extend to everybody.

Again, there are objective and subjective reasons. Let's say, for example, that all the economists are presently proving that the decline that currently exists is approximately 70 percent—or even more, as some claim, is attributable to the fact that economic ties with the former Union were broken, in addition to some part of it being attributable to ties with Eastern European states, which then belonged to the so-called single socialist system. It is true that they were broken, but it is one thing when they are broken spontaneously, and it is another thing when it is done deliberately and when it is done with foresight, that is, when there is a forecast and a forward vision.

Let us look at grain procurement. The government has concluded contractual relations with farms. Can the government now [word indistinct] these local organs and administrations [word indistinct]? It cannot. Therefore, direct regulation is required. There are elements of administrative interference here; that is, if a farm that has concluded an agreement unilaterally refuses to keep the agreement, then it must bear appropriate sanctions. That is how it is in the whole world. The state counts on it.

[Correspondent] Leonid Kravchuk named individual heroes that are boycotting the sale of grain to the state. It is the right of the peasants to sell grain or not, remarked the president, but if you do not do this, then all kinds of subsidies, benefits etc. are not extended to such farms, because they have lost contact with the state. Such actions of individual managers are regarded by Leonid Kravchukh differently. He spoke about this at the news conference openly.

[Kravchuk] They have concealed themselves behind screens and under these screens some, I stress, some heads of collective farms—I do not want to speak about all, there are honest people, responsible, they sell bread and say that the price is enough, it provides a 200-percent profit—but there is a part, which at that time received orders, medals, state prizes, became members—many were members of the central committee, they had deputations and have now given themselves neat names and, behind these neat names, they are working against independent Ukraine. [passage omitted]

If it concerned only the formal act of breaking up—say today we declare that we are seceding and withdrawing from this ruble zone and everything begins to work with a future and in a normal manner. I do not want to analyze matters in the Baltic States, but believe me, they are very difficult there. Not easier than at home, despite the fact that they proclaimed their secession. Politically, the declaration of secession is an immediate action, but the economy is connected by means of integral processes, and for 70 years we built the economy for a single state. Our industry was built as a part of the state, our agriculture and its direction—all this was built for a single state, and let us say we take [words indistinct] to cut all this, the economic ties, what could this lead to? To an immediate standstill of the whole economy.

Whether we want this or not, this is the objective reality, and by this I want to emphasize that not in any way am I coming out in favor of preserving this. We must change the structure of our industry, agriculture having subordinated the interests of Ukraine [word indistinct] equivalence, otherwise the people cannot work and manufacture production, which is not profitable for it. They can never be wealthy, but once again, time is required for this. This is why I wouldn't want you to understand that it is not being done because there is no will to do it, either in the government, the presidential structure, or in the Supreme Council. One must take into account objective possibilities.

If they exist, then it is necessary to act. If they do not, then it is necessary to wait; otherwise, one can hurry people and lose the main thing in one's own development and go backward instead of forward. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] We have determined our status, the Supreme Council has determined it, we have determined it all together through the people, and the Supreme Council in the name of the people, that we will be a non-aligned state, a state which will have a nuclear-free status. This is our fundamental position, and we will not deviate from this position. We will act in accordance with signed and adopted treaties, with treaties ratified by the Supreme Council, including the START treaty, which will soon be submitted to the Supreme Council. We will not deviate from this.

We want to be regarded as an economically strong state, as a lawful state, as a spiritual state, and not as a state armed with nuclear missiles. I am against this, believe that today we have enough force, and there will be enough force tomorrow.

I have in mind conventional military forces, to defend the interests of Ukraine. I am convinced of this and believe this, that there will never be a nuclear war in the world. Therefore, nuclear weapons are nonsense. They are merely a mirage of fear. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Ukrainian journalists from abroad put many more questions to the president of Ukraine that related to the most diverse aspects of the building of Ukrainian state. [passage omitted]

[Kravchuk] I do not think this should be a transfer [of appropriate documents from the president of the Ukrainian People's Republic in exile]. The point is, there is a terminology problem here. To take over means, excuse me for the word, to sow a [word indistinct] tail on ourselves and taking power from somebody. We can talk about the president in exile submitting his powers and not transferring them. He is [word indistinct] submitting them because a state has been formed, and a president has been elected publicly and that is all. Everything else is just detail. How it is to be done and what is to be done.

It is of substance, I emphasize this and want everyone to know this. The question is that it is a submission and not a transfer. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk Announces Decision To Leave Ruble Zone

OW2108042892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1729 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a press conference in Kiev that the republic will leave the CIS ruble zone October 1st.

The draft of the government resolution coordinated with Russia states that the ruble's circulation will be stopped on Ukrainian territory, the coupon will become a full fledged monetary unit, after which the hryvna, Ukraine's national currency, will be introduced. Kravchuk said for the initial period the coupon and the hryvna will circulate together.

Coordinating Council on Economic Reform Created

LD2108050192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] By decree of the president of Ukraine, a coordinating council on questions of economic reform has been created, with the objective of guaranteeing coordination of actions by organs of the state executive power with regard to strengthening economic reform in Ukraine. Valentyn Kostyantyn Symonenko, first vice premier of Ukraine, has been appointed head of the coordinating council.

Decisions of the coordinating council adopted within the terms of its reference are mandatory for consideration by organs of state executive power of Ukraine.

Strontium-90 Contamination Map To Be Published

AU2008124592 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Aug 92 p 7

[Prime Minister's Press Service report: "The Map of Chernobyl 'Spots'"]

[Text] A map showing contamination of the republic's territory with strontium-90 was discussed and approved at a meeting of the interdepartmental commission for radiation control at Ukraine's State Committee for Hydrometeorology. The map is based on the data obtained between 1986 and 1991. Individual spots with a concentration of contamination ranging from 0.5 to 1 curie per square km were revealed in Bila Tserkva, Bohuslav, Kaharlyk, Makariv, and Obukhiv Rayons of Kiev Oblast; in Kaniv and Korsun-Shevchenkivskyy rayons of Cherkasy Oblast; in Luhiny Rayon of Zytomyr Oblast; and in Kozelets and Chernihiv Rayons of Chernihiv Oblast. Maximum levels of contamination with this element have been revealed in the 30-kilometer Chernobyl zone. At present, the map is being printed at a Ukrainian aerial survey enterprise.

Scientists Say Fourth Chernobyl Reactor 'Safe'

LD2008224192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Natalya Sverkunova]

[Text] Minsk August 20 TASS—The fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power station poses no nuclear danger. Data units installed in the fissures of the "sarcophagus" show radiation to be within norm. This statement was made by director of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Radioecological Problems Georgiy Sharovarov in an interview with the newspaper "ZVYAZDA" on Thursday [20 August]. Nevertheless, commenting on alarming reports in the press about the critical state of the protective "sarcophagus", the scientist pointed out that "all measurements are taken, as a rule, on the surface of lava. Consequently, some spots may have a high concentration of fuel. If water gets there, they can become explosive."

Sharovarov believes that the station can be ecologically safe. But these measures will require 200 billion roubles. The most reliable method is to sort out the contents of the "sarcophagus" and bury them in accordance with international rules. "Only in this case, Chernobyl will not spring any surprises to us, Europe and the world," he said.

Weather Suspected in Nuclear Reactor Problem

LD2008144292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Kuznetsov—TASS]

[Text] Nikolayev August 19 TASS—A state commission investigating the causes of the stoppage of the third generator at the south Ukrainian nuclear power station announced preliminary results of the investigation on Wednesday [19 August].

According to the information received by the UKRINFORM news agency from the "South Ukrainian Nuclear Power Station" Association, the stoppage occurred on August 14 after the automatic emergency shut-down system disabled the reactor as a result of a malfunction of the pressure meter of the main steam header.

Twenty four hours later, the generator was re-energised.

According to the international scale used to measure nuclear accidents, the stoppage was described as a minor incident (zero level safety problem). The radiation level at the station and in the vicinity is within limits.

Experts believe one of the causes of the incident is unfavourable weather conditions in July and August.

The temperature in the Tashlyk water reservoir supplying the power plant reached 34.3 degrees celsius as a result of a continuous drought and heat in the region.

To reduce the temperature of water, the second reactor of the nuclear power station was stopped on August 18 to eliminate defects and carry out repair work.

Four of Five Nuclear Stations in Operation

LD2008191992 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Last month, only four out of the five nuclear power stations in Ukraine have been functioning, except for the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Several power units have been under running repair.

Shipyard Beginning Work in Sugar Production

LD2108042492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Nikolayev: the Black Sea shipyard association, one of the biggest shipyards, will soon be helping to produce a proportion of Ukraine's sugar. The shipyard has begun work on an order from the processing industry for diffusors, a large unit involved in the refining process. According to Ivan Vilnik, the yard's deputy director, enterprises of the Ukrsakhar [Ukrainian Sugar] concern will be able to obtain as many as 10-12 of these units from this source every year.

He said that up to now these diffusors have been supplied by a single German firm, which charged $3 million each. The unusual order is a result of conversion at the association, which has made it difficult to find work for a number of workshops.

President Confers General's Ranks on Servicemen

OW2008142292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian president has conferred the general's rank on 21 servicemen and staffers of the Ukrainian interior ministry.

The rank of Colonel-General has been conferred on First Deputy Defence Minister Ivan Bezhan who is considered to be the chief architect of the Ukrainian military doctrine, and the rank of Lieutenant-General of the Militia to Deputy Interior Minister Valentin Nedrigailo who was in charge of the Kiev Militia in 1990 when student meetings were dispersed, and to Colonel of the Militia Yaroslav Kondratyev - Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Commission for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention.

Security Chief Promoted to Colonel General

LD2108045692 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] By decree of the president of Ukraine, Lieutenant General Yevhen Kyrylovych Marchuk, chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, has been conferred with the military title of colonel general.

Merchant Ships Hoist Ukrainian Flag

OW2008170992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The merchant and freight ships in Sevastopol today hoisted the Ukrainian national flag.

In the mid-August the Ukrainian government decided to transfer all sea-going merchant and port ships included in a roll of any of the Ukrainian river or sea ports, to Ukrainian jurisdiction. Any documents issued by former Soviet bodies are no longer valid until they are completely replaced with papers of Ukrainian bodies.

At present, the Ukrainian Merchant Marine includes: Ukrainian Dunai steamship line based in Izmail, Azov Marine steamship line based in Mariupol, and Black Sea Marine steamship line based in Odessa. Judged both on the number of ships and turnover, the latter is the most powerful one in the former Soviet Union.

Communications Ministry Approves Plan for 1993

LD2108043492 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1217 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Summary] The Ministry of Communications of Ukraine has approved a draft forecast for the economic and social development of the communications sector for 1993. It is expected that 300,000 telephone exchanges will be put into operation in cities and 60,000 in rural areas, 700 kilometers of cable will be laid and 1,200 kilometers of radio relay lines will reconstructed.

Every third family will get a telephone, as 270,000 domestic telephones will be installed. Investment in developing the sector for 1993 will increase by 3.5 times and will amount to 11 billion rubles at current prices. Approximately one third of this will come from domestic sources.

Operation of Customs Services Praised

AU2108082192 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 14 Aug 92 p 7

[Ukraine's Prime Minister's Press Service report: "At Customs Borders"]

[Text] Our state's Customs Service has inherited a poorly developed infrastructure. However, during the last year, the Ukrainian customs officers have put things in order at our borders. As reported by Ukraine's State Customs Committee, the customs officers have contributed more than 500 million rubles to the State Treasury. In particular, the smuggling from Ukraine of nonferrous metals that are in high demand on Western "black markets" was stopped. From the beginning of the year, customs officers have returned more than 485 tonnes of copper, 253 tonnes of brass, 96 tonnes of nickel, 37 tonnes of aluminum, and other metals to the national economy.

Newspaper Asks Diaspora To Support Periodicals

AU2008122392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] The newspaper LITERATURNA UKRAYINA has published an appeal to Ukrainians living in the Diaspora. It raises the question of the need to give support to the Ukrainian periodical press that, due to the increase of prices of paper and printing services, has found itself in a difficult situation. Particular support, reads the appeal, is necessary for the newspaper LITERATURNA UKRAYINA and the following magazines of Ukraine's Writers Union: VITCHYZNA, VSESVIT, KYYIV, DZVIN, BEREZIL, DNIPRO, and DONBAS. If every conscious Ukrainian subscribes, in good time, to one or several periodicals, the appeal points out, he will thereby contribute to the important cause of preserving the national culture.

Belarus

Shushkevich Discusses Trip to South Korea

OW2108015192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1753 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Interview with Belarusian Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich by correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: Some observers see the July 20 agreement between the Belarusian and Russian governments as formalizing a kind of military alliance between the two states, although this is denied by both sides. Do you think there is a kind of military and political alliance between Belarus and Russia?

Stanislav Shushkevich: Yes, I do. The main reason for this is the legacy of the Soviet Union - an immensely powerful military industrial complex and our close economic links with Russia. Lately some of the republics have left this alliance but its nucleus, of which Belarus is a part, still survives. Nothing can be changed in this huge system overnight. We should just choose the best way to pass from this state of affairs to the one we have set ourselves as the ultimate objective. I mean neutrality and the nuclear-free status. The maximum period we have allowed ourselves in our international commitments is seven years. As for bilateral agreements, there are signs of chaos here, which is something I'm concerned about.

Q: You have in mind the agreements on the Black Sea Fleet between the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine?

A: Well, I'm glad that the tension over this issue has been considerably relaxed but these agreements contradict those they signed within the CIS framework before that. You can change some of the clauses in previously signed agreements but you can't completely ignore these documents. We've had a report in our press to the effect that the opposition led by the Popular Front claims the bilateral agreements between Belarus and Russia to a considerable extent contradict some of the documents passed by our parliament. I won't be in a hurry to support the claim - the matter should be carefully examined, and in fact instructions for this have already been given - but I would question the validity of some points in those agreements, for they do seem to contradict some of the principles proclaimed in CIS documents. I think this is very bad.

Q: What do you have in mind specifically?

A: Of course it's not disastrous, which is why I wasn't an ardent supporter of the well-known statement the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet had made on that score. What is dangerous is the tendency to sign agreements contradicting previously signed documents. For example, I have no right to sign, and never will sign, any international agreement on behalf of Belarus if it contradicts any other international document which I signed before and which has already been enforced. If the legal services involved in drafting such documents fail to notice such contradictions they should be given the sack. But if they do notice these discrepancies and point them out to you, and you nevertheless sign the document, then I'm afraid you abuse your powers by doing so. I think there should be a diplomatic mechanism for checking documents for such contradictions, which we still don't have. That's why some of the republics take an elder-brother attitude to others. I can't put up with that.

Q: As a head of state, do you have your own team of people, as Yeltsin does, for example?

A: Yeltsin became President through a general election, and he had had a team backing him up even before he was elected. Whereas I first became a member of the Supreme Soviet, and then the Supreme Soviet elected me its chairman. So I naturally couldn't have a team in that sense. I got the post simply because my program was more acceptable to the majority than any other. So in that sense the entire parliament is my team. But I do have a narrower team as well, an excellent one. I've had it for quite a while. They're my former colleagues from the university, people from the Dormash factory, those who have come together because they shared my ideas and supported my program - which has practically been carried out by now. I mean my election program which I regarded as my strategic one. They're actually an excellent team of economic advisers. I'm proud of them. The notes they write to me are wonderful. At first they were even getting no money for this, but now they write on a contract basis.

Q: Can you name them?

A: I won't do so because I don't want them to be dragged through the mire time and again for giving me what many people might think to be bad advice. They include members of the former Soviet Academy of Sciences, members of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, engineers, and experts from the State Economic Planning Committee. I enjoy working with them and will never let them down.

Q: Could you say a few words about your forthcoming visit to South Korea?

A: My team has made an analysis of the South Korean economy which makes it clear that the country has been so successful because, between 1954 and 1964, it had two five-year plans whose fulfillment provided a basis for the "economic miracle." I want to make a detailed study of those plans. I don't mean we need bringing back any rubbish like "Carry Out the Five-Year Plan in Four Years!" or anything like the 500 Days Program. What we do need is a reasonable detailed five-year plan with basic landmarks, a plan which could later on be modified on the basis of what has been achieved. We already have a body which could take care of the job, the State Economics and Planning Committee. It's still unable to exercise its full potential, which is sheer inefficiency, because it's got some really bright people on its staff.

Q: Are you thinking of inviting advisers from developed capitalist countries? As far as I know, the German ambassador to Belarus, Mr. Reinhard Kraus [name as received], has already suggested that you invite some leading experts from Germany.

A: Yes, he has made this suggestion but we'll do something else: we'll set up a humanitarian fund to enable us to send our experts to study in Germany or will be inviting Germans to give advice to our experts here. You know, I've had meetings with many top statesmen, politicians and economists and have come to the conclusion that they know nothing at all about the present-day Belarusian economy. I taught and examined university students for many years, and I can judge about a person's knowledge by his questions and answers. I'm a former Soviet citizen but, to be quite honest, I don't know enough about the Uzbek, Tajik, or Turkmen economy. Although, if you excuse my being a bit immodest, I do know a few things about the Russian economy.

Q: You have more than once spoken about the introduction of presidency in Belarus. The idea is advocated by some top government figures and the leaders of some political parties. Have you not changed your views on it?

A: No, I haven't. I'm not opposed to presidency in principle but I think it shouldn't be introduced at this point. We should wait a little. I've already said that we need a five-year plan for economic development. Surely we don't need a president to see that it's carried out properly. A large collective body will be perfectly able to cope with the job.

In fact, it's fairly dangerous to introduce presidency at this moment. It seems those who suggest it have in mind a specific person who they want to become President, whereas we need a mechanism which would rule these things out. Let's wait a bit. I understand and accept the technocratic reasoning of people running the economy, who wish the system of executive power to be reorganized as quickly as possible, because there are heavy restrictions on it and there's no strict division of powers at various levels of it either.

Q: You are on holiday now. Are you having a nice time?

A: I'm having a splendid time. Actually my trip to South Korea will also be part of my holiday because I'm going to do some study for myself there. I've been invited by some official South Korean bodies which will also pay for my trip. I'm going with a member of my team, Academician Anatoliy Mikhailov.

Shushkevich: Republic in 'Transitional Period'

LD2008143492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] Minsk August 19 TASS—Belarus has become a European state, Belarusian Parliamentary Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich told Radio Liberty on Wednesday [19 August].

Shushkevich admitted, however, that "our independence is somewhat relative. There is logic in it. We are going through a transitional period. I would say we are trying to avoid steps, both in politics and economy, which do not contribute to our independence."

Commenting on statements about Belarus's excessive orientation to Russia, Shushkevich said he is orientating the republic towards democratic Russia, adding that "we are interested in good partnership."

Apart from Russia, Belarus prioritises relations with Ukraine, Germany and France. It is also seeking to boost ties with Poland, Lithuania and other neighbouring states.

Defense Minister Discusses Neutrality

OW2108020392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1755 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy by correspondent Vyacheslav Zenkovich; place and date not given; from the "Problems & Opinions" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Correspondent: The parliament of Belarus has declared a non-nuclear policy and state neutrality. How realistic are these goals?

Pavel Kozlovskiy: Belarus will find it very difficult to go neutral due to its geographic location: essential international communications, connecting Russia with the West, cross its territory. The entire European community will be interested in stable and consistent policies on the part of Belarus. Bearing this in mind we will conduct an independent military policy. Its details are yet to be formulated together with a new military doctrine—a system of officially accepted basic views, concepts of warfare, army structure and means to defend the sovereignty of Belarus and its state integrity. We need a doctrine that would reflect the interests of Belarus as a neutral nuclear-free state, a doctrine taking into account the world political situation. For that reason I do not rule out the fact that first we will have a doctrine for the transitional period, which will stay in effect until the main military-political aim is achieved, a republican army is formed and the 30-thousand strong contingent of Russia's strategic forces withdrawn from its territory. The first version of the military doctrine has been examined by the Belarusian security council and approved in principle. Currently it is being amended.

When that is done, it will go before the Security Council again for approval and I believe that after that it will be submitted to parliament.

Q: How long do you think it will take Belarus to go nuclear- free?

A: In any case Belarus will go neutral no earlier than strategic nuclear arms are withdrawn from its territory. Under the Lisbon agreements, to which Belarus is a signatory, this must happen no later than within a seven years. Our own armed forces have a major offensive potential, many more soldiers and military equipment than a neutral country may need. We will be gradually doing away with that legacy of the USSR, in a rational and sound way.

The political situation at home and abroad will have serious influence on Belarus's future neutral status. Now we have even relations with all neighbors. There is no pressure from other countries or attempts to make Belarus join some military blocs or alliances.

Just recently we concluded a treaty with Russia on the coordination of efforts in the military sphere. Similar treaties with other former Soviet republics are in the making. These treaties have nothing to do with military alliances, they simply put our relations in the military sphere in order.

Q: The military treaty with Russia mentions the establishment of a machinery that would make it technically impossible for Russia to use strategic nuclear arms from the territory of Belarus without permission from Belarusian leaders. Does that mean in principle that Belarus and Russia can do this together?

A: This treaty has a totally different meaning. It's true that we have agreed with Russia to develop certain mechanisms that would make it impossible to use Russian nuclear arms from the territory of Belarus without the consent of Belarusian leaders. The point at issue is not the joint use of nuclear missiles but the necessary technical control of their non-use. Incidentally, Belarus itself, although it had strategic nuclear arms in its territory, has never been able to use nuclear arms on its own, because the launch codes are in Moscow. Without those codes not a single missile can blast off.

Q: When will the speaker of the Belarusian parliament have "his share" of the codes?

A: I won't put the question that way. It is not the codes that I have in mind but some safety interlock system. Re-equipping the current system will take time. By agreement with Russia a deadline will be set in a special agreement.

Q: Some political observers tend to think that the joint use of about 150 military satellites of the former Soviet Union can be regarded as some sort of military alliance.

A: This is a very complicated question and it was discussed at the CIS summit in Tashkent. It was decided that communication, broadcasting and weather satellites, as well as others, will be used jointly. For the time being, distributing satellites would make no sense. Neither Belarus, nor any other former Soviet republic, except for the legal successor of the USSR—Russia—has systems capable of receiving and processing information coming from those satellites or controlling space systems. Even if the satellites are distributed, many of the republics will be unable to use them.

Belarus is setting up a state council for space, which would include an official from the defence ministry. In general I believe that the very approach to the division of property of the former union requires special inter-state studies.

Q: How do you think the future of the Black Sea fleet should be settled?

A: Belarus does not need a Navy. What it does need is its own merchant marine. If the division of the USSR's assets is comprehensive and concerns fleets, foreign embassies and finances, it will be possible for republics to find more compromises on various issues. For instance, Belarus can give up its share of cruisers and submarines to have fishing boats and freighters instead. The narrow principle of dividing property is not justified. Tension that makes itself felt in relations between our states from time to time is evidence of that.

Q: The Defence Ministry has set up a center for military studies. What is its task?

A: Its mission is in no way different from that of similar institutions in other countries. We must develop our own military science, study and summarize the experience of foreign armies and to study and analyze what is going on in our own army. The center will be doing that job. We have no immediate plans for profound studies on the international scale, similar to those of the Center of Strategic Studies in the United States. But we may start doing that too at some future date.

Q: What has proved most difficult in running the Belarusian army?

A: The shortage of finances. According to conservative estimates we lack 13 billion rubles this year. Belarus has undertaken to manage a big army, which has to be reformed and reduced. After a while this will make it possible to reduce defence spending and cope with defence problems at reasonable costs.

Defense Ministry on Oath of Allegiance

LD1808223192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1826 GMT 18 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 18 TASS—The oath of allegiance to the Belarusian people cannot and will not be forced, says a statement of the republican Defence Ministry's press center published in the "VO SLAVU RODINY" newspaper today.

The statement was made in connection with diverse attitudes of republican servicemen to the proposal of the Belarusian Defence Ministry that all personnel of the republican Armed Forces take the enlistment oath by the end of this year.

A public opinion poll of 1,500 officers held in large garrisons, including that in Minsk, by specialists from the Defence Ministry's Educational Work Department showed 90 per cent of the polled approve and consider timely the ministry's proposal.

However, some of the polled believe the Belarusian oath is forced and does not correspond to the feelings of some officers.

Substantiating the stand of the republican Defence Ministry, the statement stressed the disintegration of the Soviet Union has crucially changed the approaches to military building in sovereign states that are now creating their military establishments and structures and have begun independent military building with elaborating legal norms of the military service within this framework.

Belarus also carries its well-considered policy in the military sphere with due account of the actual situation. The law on citizenship adopted in the republic puts all servicemen on its territory, regardless their ethnic belonging, in equal conditions.

This means each serviceman has the right to decide on his own his civil belonging and, proceeding from this, his attitude to the sovereign state as the defender of his interests. That is why the Belarusian law clearly shows the non-forced character of oath taking.

The first stage of reforming the republican Armed Forces will be completed by the end of this year. About 100 military units will be cut and essentially new units will be created. The fall session of the republican parliament will consider in the second reading a package of laws to establish the legal status of the Belarusian Armed Forces.

Thus, the Army must juridically confirm its state status with the oath of allegiance to the Belarusian people, says the statement. It clarifies reserve servicemen will take the oath as need be, in case of emergency situations or in a special for the state period.

Contract service is not envisaged so far. Officers, who will not wish to take the oath, will preserve social guarantees as republican citizens after their discharge in reserve.

Minister Notes Cost 'Burden' of Forming Army

PM2008095192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 2

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, ITAR-TASS roundup report: "Belarus Is Counting Primarily on Russia"]

[Text] The establishment of its own armed forces is proving an expensive luxury for Belarus, which is having to shoulder the burden of previously nonexistent expenses including the provision of the necessary combat hardware and weapons for the troops. This was stated by Lieutenant General Valeriy Yakushev, republic deputy minister of defense, in an interview published in the Belarusian Defense Ministry newspaper VO SLAVU RODINY [To the Glory of the Motherland].

The general noted that previously no armaments were produced in Belarus as a finished product and that the Belarusians intend to look for industrial enterprises and organizations where all this can be ordered primarily in Russia, and partly also in Ukraine.

Austrians, Swiss Agree To Direct Air Service

LD2008225192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By BELINFORM correspondent Valentina Menshikova for TASS]

[Text] Minks August 20 TASS—Bilateral agreements on launching a direct air service between Belarus, Austria and Switzerland were signed here on Thursday [20 August].

A regular air service between the three countries will begin in October this year. The Austrian air company Liners will make flights along a Vienna-Minsk route twice a week while Swiss airliners will serve a Minsk-Zurich air route.

"Prior to our arrival in Minsk, our experts carried out a certain survey of regions in those CIS countries with which we would like to open an air service. We chose Belarus," Bernard Robinson, representative of the Austrian and Swiss air companies in Belarus, told BELINFORM.

"We saw that Minsk had all resources for successful cooperation: An excellent-quality airport capable of receiving high-class airliners and, most importantly, a desire to cooperate," he said.

Moldova

7 Russian Peacekeepers Wounded in Dubossary

LD2008092392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0903 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—Intensive shelling of a post of the Russian peacekeeping forces near Dubossary has been going on for several hours this morning. Seven people were wounded, including two officers. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned about this from a report by the Tiraspol Olvia-Press news agency. Intelligence shows that there are subversive detachments operating near Dubossary who are trying to wreck the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Dniester Leader Issues Decree To Surrender Arms

LD2008161892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1455 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—The decree of President Igor Smirnov of the Dniester Moldovan Republic "On Measures for the Confiscation of Weapons and Explosives Illegally Kept by Population" was issued in the Dniester area on Thursday [20 August]. The document says that despite numerous calls of the republic's prosecutor general to surrender by August 13 the arms in unauthorised possession, a considerable number of arms is still kept by the population. Cases of spontaneous firing and grenades' explosions became more frequent in Tiraspol and Bendery. Citizens who illegally possess firearms and explosives should surrender them to internal security bodies in places of their residence by August 25, says the decree. This should be done to establish public order and put a stop to the spread of arms and explosives. Persons who avoid fulfilling this decree will face criminal responsibility.

Foreign Minister's Message to UN on Dniester

AU2008135292 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Message from Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali; date not given—recorded; relayed by Romania's Radio Iasi]

[Summary From Poor Reception] "To His Excellency, Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations:

"Your Excellency," we "have to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Principles of the Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Dniester Zone in the Republic of Moldova, which was concluded between the presidents of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, and Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, on 21 July 1992, the situation in the conflict zone has begun to normalize.

"The disengagement process of the military troops involved in the conflict has been completed and a security zone has been created in which the unified peacekeeping forces have been deployed. Efforts are being made to create a team of military observers from the four countries—the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, and Ukraine. The military equipment has been withdrawn to its permanent deployment positions and negotiations between the Republic of Moldova and Russian Federation on the withdrawal of Russian military units from the territory of the Republic of Moldova have begun.

"Despite all this, we note that the opponent is resorting to deliberate provocations and actions" with the aim "to prevent the implementation of the measures envisaged by the Convention. Flagrant human rights violations have been noted in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova. A campaign of moral and physical persecution of the Moldovan population, especially of former volunteers and representatives of the local constitutional power bodies, is taking place. There are frequent cases where people, who do not back the policy promoted by the separatists, are dismissed from their jobs. Many refugees returning to their homes find them occupied by mercenaries.

"In violation of the Convention provisions, former guardsmen are included in the peacekeeping forces, something that leads to acts of violence against peaceful people. A great amount of weapons has not been returned to the authorities and continues to be in the possession of people in the eastern rayons of the republic.

"These destructive actions" make one doubt "the desire and sincerity of the opponent to implement the provisions of the Convention" thus "creating the danger of launching a new stage of armed confrontation, a fact that" could "hamper the process of the peaceful settlement of the conflict."

"The Republic of Moldova will spare no efforts to reestablish peace and understanding on Moldovan soil in conformity with the principles of the UN Charter.

"Mr. Secretary General, please accept assurances of my special regard.

"With respect, Nicolae Tiu, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Moldova."

Snegur Meets Russian Official To View Dniester

MK2008110392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 1

[NEGA report under "In Brief" rubric: "Peace Affairs"]

[Text] Moldova and Russia are discussing further joint actions to settle the Dniester region conflict. "The process of establishing a lasting peace in the Dniester region has entered the parliamentary mainstream," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated at a meeting with Vladimir Zhurbenko, deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff.

According to M. Snegur, the Moldovan parliament ought to approve one of the three drafts defining the status of

Moldova's eastern regions, and the draft will in no way affect Moldova's territorial integrity.

Snegur: CIS Membership Not Ruled Out

LD2008105392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1034 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeliy]

[Text] Chisinau, August 19 TASS—"In signing the agreement with Russia to settle the Dniester conflict, I relied on the democratic spirit of Boris Yeltsin, who is an outstanding political personality. He does not want seats of conflicts to flare up on the territory of the former Soviet Union," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told the MOLDOVAPRES News Agency here.

Snegur said the situation in the republic, particularly in the Dniester area, was favourable for the utilization of the prerequisites created at the first stage of the Moldovan-Russian agreement's implementation. In his opinion, the sides have managed to restore peace, to put an end to hostilities and to resume the work of the joint commission. In other words, prerequisites have been created to go over to the second stage, i.e. the stage of political talks on the Dniester Republic's status, which is pivotal for settling the situation as a whole.

The president believes Moldova should continue its relations with the east, because it is, in fact, integrated into the economies of CIS states. But the republic cannot make progress without modernising its economy. And this can be done only by establishing integrated links with the West, attracting Western investments and businessmen.

Snegur stressed the necessity to urgently conclude bilateral agreements with CIS states. "Before Moldova's integration into the economies of the West or of the Black Sea countries," Snegur said, "I see nothing wrong in Moldova's membership in the CIS." According to the president, the republic is pursuing a very cautious policy. It refuses to join military blocs, keeps aloof of the joint strategic umbrella, is not a member of the joint armed forces. It maintains only economic ties with the CIS. Moldova could join the CIS only on one condition: if it is given the right to withdraw from it at any time it wishes," Snegur stated.

Prime Minister Concludes Visit to Romania

LD1908222492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by correspondent S. Zheleznyak]

[Text] Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli has held talks in Romania about Moldova's future economic cooperation with Romania and other East European countries.

[Zheleznyak] According to Sangeli, over half of Moldova's recently formed Cabinet of Ministers arrived in Romania with him, which made it possible to hold talks that were maximally concrete. They took place not just in offices, but also directly at enterprises. The guests visited an oil refinery, a nuclear power station construction site, and the seaport of Constanta.

The two states' cooperation over two years was analyzed. The sides came to the conclusion that this has not been developing effectively enough. In their view, the economic treaty for 1993 signed today eliminates the errors that have been committed and makes cooperation more flexible. Particular attention was paid to agriculture, above all to the fight against the drought that has come to be a disaster for Romania and Moldova this year.

An agreement has been reached on cooperation in other areas, particularly with regard to energy. With financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a number of joint projects will be implemented to erect power transmission lines, modernize railways and ports, and build a bridge across the Danube. Moldova intends to effect its transport links with Europe via Romania.

Addressing journalists, Romanian Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan noted the very serious situation in which the Moldovan economy finds itself as a result of the Dniester region conflict. He said that Romania is ready to provide as much additional assistance as it can.

Andrey Sangeli expressed profound satisfaction with the results of the visit. At the same time, he declared that Romania is, for them, a partner just like Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, and Turkey. Military issues were not considered at the talks.

Andrey Sangeli was also received today by Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

Views Cooperation With Iliescu

LD2008110592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest August 19 TASS—The ending of the military conflict in the Dniester Region will make it possible to expand mutually-advantageous economic relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova, head of the Moldovan Government, Andrey Sangeli, on a two-day official visit here, said on Wednesday [19 August].

Addressing journalists after a meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, the guest from Moldova said that Romanian-Moldovan economic cooperation was the main topic of the negotiations. Sangeli said that specific problems connected with the financing of the Botosani-Beltsy railway and increase of the capacity of the railway stations in Ungeny and Galati were discussed during the conversation with the Romanian president. "These projects will enable Moldova to enter Europe via Romania", Sangeli said.

In his turn, the Romanian president said that a thorough exchange of opinions about the negotiations in Moscow and Chisinau to define the status of the 14th Army and decide on the deadline for the withdrawal of its units from the Moldovan territory was held during the meeting. Noting that "the economic problems now assume priority", Iliescu declared for pooling the efforts of the two countries to overcome difficulties faced by Moldovan and Romanian agriculture because of prolonged drought.

The agreement on economic cooperation between the two countries will be signed in Bucharest in the afternoon.

Defense Minister Ends Romanian Visit

LD2008204592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest August 20 TASS—A Moldovan military delegation led by Defence Minister Pavel Kryange on Thursday [20 August] completed their three-day official visit to Romania.

The Moldavan guests familiarised themselves with the operation of a number of plants of the Romanian military industrial complex, and visited military units and an exhibition of combat hardware, the ROMPRES news agency reports.

During the delegation's talks with Romanian Minister of National Defence Nicolae Spiroiu, "there was a useful exchange of information" on the functioning of the Armies of the two countries. The two sides pointed out that "there is a very good relationship" between the Armies of the two countries. Ways for further cooperation between the Defence Ministries of Moldova and Romania were considered as well.

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Situation

LD1808161492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 18 Aug 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS]

[Text] Chisinau August 18 TASS—A meeting with heads of city and regional power bodies has been held at the Moldovan Government to discuss the situation in the republican agro-industrial complex.

Speaking at the meeting, Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli described the current economic situation as crisis. In his words, the ongoing drought has affected all agricultural crops, and, according to preliminary estimations, the yield of major crops will be about 70 per cent from the average level. As for fruit, the situation is much more difficult.

In the opinion of the Moldovan Government, the economic crisis is deteriorated with the non-fulfilment of agreements, the unwillingness of some state and collective farm heads to sell harvest to the state, and the lack of energy resources, raw and building materials.

"Two issues are of principle for us now - the provision of people with bread, energy resources and fuel," said Sangeliy. As for the information on another price rise now spread in Moldova, this will be done only on popular consent, he stressed.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev, Shevardnadze Discuss Abkhazia Events

OW2008175292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday evening [19 August], President Nazarbayev and Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze discussed by telephone the problem of military confrontation in Abkhazia. Nazarbayev expressed "concern about the tragic events in that region and about operations of the armed forces which caused many fatalities".

Shevardnadze promised, says Nazarbayev's press service, that despite an extremely complicated situation, the troops will be withdrawn and talks will begin soon.

The joint statement by the leaders of Kazakhstan, Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, signed in Uralsk, gives a more detailed assessment of the events in Abkhazia. This document says in part: "One more hot spot has appeared on the former Union's map of military conflicts: the troops sent to Abkhazia are being used against civilians. Dozens of people have been killed or wounded; desperate and homeless people have streamed out of Abkhazia; the number of refugees is increasing; social tensions, already strong, have become even more serious.

Our republics are closely following the events in Abkhazia. It looks like the tragic events in the hotbeds of the CIS, including that in South Ossetia, have not given a lesson to Georgia's current leadership. Yet another attempt is being made to tackle political issues and problems of ethnic and inter-state relations by military methods, disregarding the legally elected bodies of state authority.

Expressing the will of our multi-ethnic population, we urge the parties concerned to settle all their disagreements by political methods, foreseeing the danger of projecting such situations to other regions. We urge Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze to use all of the constitutional and other peaceful methods available to settle the conflict as soon as possible, with due account taken of the interests of the Abkhazian and other people.

Nazarbayev Meets Bashkortostan, Tatarstan Heads

LD2108100192 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] On 19 August Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev met Murtaza Rakhimov, chairman of the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet, and Mintimir Shaymiyev, president of Tatarstan, in Uralsk as he continued his trip around the western oblasts of the republic. They signed a joint communique at the end of their talks. This is published in the press. The leaders of the three republics also adopted a statement in connection with the events in Abkhazia. Taking part in the talks were Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and head of the Uralsk Oblast Administration Nazhamaden Iskaliyev.

The leaders of the delegations then held a news conference. They answered numerous questions from journalists. In the afternoon, President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko went by helicopter with their eminent guests to the most remote rayon of Taypak Oblast in western Kazakhstan.

Communique on Relations Signed

OW2008181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 20 Aug 92

["Communique" on results of talks between President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Bashkortostan Parliament Chairman Rakhimov and Tatarstan President Shaimiyev; signed in Uralsk on 19 August; report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The people of these republics are linked with traditionally fraternal bonds, and also by historical, cultural and language affinity.

During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on various aspects of mutually advantageous cooperation and assistance.

The parties intend to broaden their relations on the basis of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, cultural values and national dignity, and on the basis of the observance of human rights.

The parties note that they have similar views on matters pertaining to the preservation of the common economic entity, and back President Nazarbayev's initiative to intensify integration processes in the CIS. The participants in the talks express their desire to create favorable conditions for broadening trade and economic cooperation between enterprises, organizations, departments and companies.

The parties will encourage direct cooperation between the participants in economic activity, develop long-term cooperation between industrial enterprises and promote joint utilization of the resources and mineral deposits, and of the industrial, agricultural, scientific and technical potential, and joint solution of the problems pertaining to the supplies of oil products and grain and the organization of harvesting.

The parties will encourage contacts between their peoples, promote cultural, information and educational exchanges and broaden direct contacts between educational establishments, academic and branch research centers and organizations.

Confirming their adherence to the norms and principles deriving from the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, and from the agreements between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, the parties express readiness to discuss ways of broadening mutually-advantageous relations and state the necessity to conclude bilateral treaties and agreements."

Two Military Agreements Reached With Russia

LD2008102892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0754 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Andrey Naryzhkin]

[Text] Alma-Ata August 19 TASS—During today's talks between the delegations of Russia and Kazakhstan, currently underway at the National Defence Ministry here, the sides were able to arrive at two fundamentally important agreements, which will play a significant role in military relations between the two friendly states.

They include an agreement between the Defence Ministries of Russia and Kazakhstan on the training of officers at military schools and an agreement regulating the discharge of military duties by officers and noncoms.

Taking into account the identity of defence interests and eager to perpetuate their common military-strategic space, the sides have found it necessary to jointly develop the existing system of officers' training in order to meet the needs of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. Proceeding from this agreement, the sides are now drawing up an annual plan for the enrolment of cadets to Russian and Kazakh military schools. The sides have recognised the equivalency of graduation documents issued by Russian and Kazakh military schools on the territories of both states.

In accordance with the second document, the sides will take concerted measures to ensure the existing procedures linked with the discharge of military duties, transfer and discharge from military service, as well as the pensioning of officers and noncoms in keeping with the legislations of each state. The sides have also assumed a commitment not to prevent the transfer of officers and noncoms from the armed forces of the Russian Federation to the armed forces to the Republic of Kazakhstan and vice-versa, provided they have reasons, stipulated in the legislations of each state. Neither side will allow any pressure to be exerted on officers and noncoms wishing to be transferred to the armed forces of the other side, and will not allow any infringement of the rights and liberties of these servicemen.

Servicemen's Rights To Be Protected

OW2008185792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1626 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Member of the president's Security Council Defence Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov said during his talks with a delegation of the Russian Defence Ministry in Alma-Ata, that the rights of all soldiers and officers serving in Kazakhstan will be adequately protected.

Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Colonel-General Viktor Dubynin told journalists that during the talks in the capital of Kazakhstan two agreements on training officers in military schools and on the procedure of officers' service were signed.

These documents will be used to draft an annual plan for enrollments to Kazakhstan's and Russia's higher educational establishments. Both states will take joint measures to ensure the adequate procedure of officers' service, and transfer from unit to unit and to the reserve.

Both agreements go into effect the moment they are signed. They will remain valid for five years.

Supreme Economic Council on Ties With CIS

OW2108061292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1818 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "Trade & Investment" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] **CIS Governments Have not Been Completely Fulfilling Their Obligations to Kazakhstan**

Inter-government agreements which Kazakhstan has signed with other CIS nations do not give a 100% guarantee that deliveries would be honored. Experts from the Supreme Economic Council, a consultative body within the Kazakh Government, note that during the first 6 months of this year the republic did not receive almost a quarter of diesel fuel, about 30% of gas and a fifth of oil products agreed upon previously. In spite of agreements, Russia does not guarantee that it will deliver oil products in August and September.

Kazakhstan has still not resolved the issue on prices with Turkmenistan. The latter demands that payment for deliveries be made using world prices. This is unacceptable for Kazakhstan. Relatively stable economic ties with Bashkortostan (a republic in the Russian Federation) has developed. This republic supplies Kazakhstan with diesel fuel and a quarter of gas needed by the latter during the harvest. In return for the fuel Bashkortostan will receive grain from Kazakhstan.

Russia Remains Kazakhstan's Principal Partner

For Kazakhstan's economy, ties with the Russian Federation are of a decisive character. Figures from the State Committee on Statistics of Kazakhstan show that in the total balance of inter-government trade, Russia's share amount to 61% of all imported produce and 56% of exports. Technical equipment comprise the majority (71%) of all imports to Kazakhstan.

Russia is the primary supplier of oil, soda ash, sodium hydroxide, rolls of ferrous metals, steel pipes, automobile gas and diesel fuel, vehicle tires, timber, trucks, passenger cars and many types of agricultural equipment.

The processing and mining industries predominate in Kazakhstan's exports to Russia (70%). Agriculture accounts for 27%. Russia takes in all of the iron ore, chrome-iron ore and alumina exported by Kazakhstan; 95% of lead and phosphate fertilizer; more than 80% of oil, rolled metal, radio-frequency cables, aircraft wires, bearings for rolling stocks of trains, tractors, bulldozers and cotton fiber; 75% of refined copper; 75% of silk cloth; and 65% of zinc and tin-plates. Practically all electric power stations and integrated metallurgical plants of the Urals and Siberia utilize coal and ferroalloys from Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan Will Continue With Manufacture of the Arms, Converting Enterprises Step by Step

First deputy of the prime minister—Minister of Kazakhstan Industry Oleg Soskovets, stated to INTERFAX that the republic will continue to manufacture the arms. Kazakhstan Military Industrial Complex will step by step convert enterprises in terms of reduction of the necessity in the arms, according to O. Soskovets, but no drastic drop will be allowed.

Kazakhstan Military Industrial Complex, which included more than 50 enterprises, is orientated on manufacture of the artillery systems (up to 11 of the ex-USSR manufacture), infantry machinery and armored machines (up to 18%), rifles, rocket systems and special anti-missile machinery and military marine equipment (some units up to 95% of the USSR total production).

Oleg Soskovets pointed out that one of the examples of conversion in Kazakhstan could be visit to Alma-Ata of the president of Mercedes Benz concern. In accordance with the agreement the concern will place orders with the military factories in Kazakhstan to produce assemblies and parts for trucks and cars.

According to the minister of industry it is planned that in two years Kazakhstan will be manufacturing about 60% of the assemblies and parts for Liaz buses produced in Likino (Russia).

Total volume of the manufacture in military industrial complex of the republic dropped up to 30-40% of the last years level. According to Russian orders military complex manufactured 1.2 bn [billion] rubles worth of products, which is not sellable, as Russian budget did not allocate funds for purchasing of the machinery.

Trade Between Russia and Kazakhstan in 1993 Will Decline

Experts from the Supreme Economic Council of Kazakhstan believe that a further decline in the volume of trade in 1993 will occur. This is due to several reasons. First of all, production in Russia will continue to fall. Secondly, Russia will take measures to balance imports and exports—at present exports in Russia exceed imports by about one and a half times. Thirdly, Russia will try to sell in the world market or in other CIS republics for hard currency using world prices a part of the produce which it usually sells to Kazakhstan. Fourthly, demand from Kazakh enterprises will fall due to a hike in prices. At the same time the reduction of exports from Kazakhstan of such produce and resources like non-ferrous and rare-earth metals, chrome iron-ore, ferroalloys, grain, meat, wool, leather and many others cannot be compensated by imports from other CIS nations.

Radiation Levels at Kokchetav Lakes Viewed

LD2108054392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by correspondent A. Svyazin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Every summer, the marvelous health resorts on the lakes of Kazakhstan's Kokchetav oblast are visited by thousands of tourists, a good half of whom comprise people from Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kurgan, and other towns of Russia, but the people of the oblast itself are becoming more and more worried about their health.

Throughout the oblast there are numerous uranium works, and the most terrible thing is that the graph of cancer incidence is inexorably creeping up. In the past 20 years, the number of oncological cases has doubled, while the growth in population has been falling.

For Russia, the situation improves somewhat, but according to thoroughly accurate data, in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan and also in Omsk oblast, construction of housing has, for many years, been carried out using radioactive sand and gravel from the Makinka quarries.

Kyrgyzstan

Republic To Favor 'Armed Neutrality'

MK2108100092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 92 p 2

[NEGA report under "In Brief" rubric: "Concept of Neutrality"]

[Text] Kyrgyz Vice President Feliks Kulov has called the reports about the impending opening of a U.S. military base in Kyrgyzstan "a canard." F. Kulov confirmed that no one in the United States has even considered the possibility of devising a defense cooperation concept. At the same time he did not deny that Kyrgyzstan is trying to open up access to various military blocs for itself and establish contacts with other countries' military departments. However, so far this has been done exclusively for the purpose of studying their experience of military organizational development. Kyrgyzstan's military defense concept (which is now being elaborated) is based on the principles of armed neutrality.

Employment Program Ensures Social Protection

*LD2108100192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0750 GMT 21 Aug 92*

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov—TASS]

[Text] Bishkek August 21 TASS—An employment programme published in Kyrgyzstan today will help ensure effective social protection to some 100,000 of the republic's unemployed. It provides for the lifting of regulations that hampered the development of the market and the changing of the labour legislation following the appearance of various forms of property. From now on workers and employers will have equal rights. Some guarantees are being introduced to ensure employment and protect workers against dismissals.

The state and public migration fund is being created for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. Much importance will be attached to social insurance, which will help improve living conditions of various sections of the population.

Tajikistan

Russia, U.S. Accused of Interfering in Affairs

*LD1908200192 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network
in Tajik 1200 GMT 18 Aug 92*

[Text] Dear listeners, now we draw your attention to a summary of a commentary by Tajik radio's second program:

For the second day running, the mass media in a number of countries, especially in Russia, are publishing reports quoting the American weekly NEWSWEEK on events in Tajikistan. According to these reports, quoting diplomatic and government officials in Dushanbe from the aforementioned weekly, military Islamic formations now exist in Tajikistan. They also say that Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of a powerful mojahedin military group, is engaged in arming these formations. [Words indistinct] says that Hekmatyar was secretly sending weapons to Tajikistan until the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Now that both Afghanistan and Tajikistan are no longer under Soviet occupation, Hekmatyar is not only fighting the former [word indistinct] who were ruling Kabul, but is fighting against the government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe.

Such reports as these published by NEWSWEEK are continuously published by the world mass media, especially Russian radio and television, which the other day broadcast this report several times. This is evidence of the fact that the Russian Government and politicians have a stake in the events in Tajikistan. This may serve once again as a reason to send new Russian military forces to Tajik borders.

This article has other objectives, too. One of them is to discredit the opposition, especially the Islamic Movement Party. The NEWSWEEK article mentions worries by the neighboring Central Asian republics that the situation here is a warning to the neighbors: Look what the Islamic Movement Party is engaged in! Apart from this, the article implies that the Afghan Government, under Ahmad Shah Masud, is [word indistinct] in normalization of situation in Tajikistan. In talks with a delegation from Tajikistan, Ahmad Shah Masud said that Afghanistan will not supply arms to their Muslim brothers who are fighting against the communists.

This was a summary of a commentary by Tajik Radio's second program following a report from the American weekly.

This article really [words indistinct]. We can see more and more that America and Russia are increasingly interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign Tajikistan and are making the [word indistinct] already tense situation more tense. Of course, they have an interest in this. Russia is striving to take advantage of the incompetence in the presidency and Nabiyev himself to send troops to Tajikistan under any pretext and stop those who want freedom. For Russia it is essential to station their troops, kicked out from Europe and the Baltic republics as occupiers, in Tajikistan. [Words indistinct] the president to defend himself with the help of these troops. Both NEWSWEEK and Russian television only want one thing from such provocations: for Tajikistan to be transformed into a second Afghanistan and for Tajiks, Tajiks, and more Tajiks to be killed. [sentence indistinct]

Karimov Fears Afghanistan Scenario for Country

*OW1908161192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1511 GMT 19 Aug 92*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's first Deputy Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov fears his country may follow in Afghanistan's footsteps, if political parties, territorial groups and clans clash in a merciless free-for-all. Karimov said that differences between clans ware fraught with the greatest risk of Tajikistan's split and the start of a full-scale war.

Karimov said a total of 15 pieces of small arms were in private hands in Tajikistan and their holders refrained from handing them in defiance of presidential decrees. He said the border with Afghanistan was systematically violated and gangs of smugglers delivered ever new supplies of weapons and narcotics to Tajikistan.

Karimov said working groups discussed draft treaties between Russia and Tajikistan, including those on friendship and cooperation and military and economic affairs and migration in Moscow on Wednesday. He said he hoped that the Presidents of Tajikistan and Russia Rakhman Nabiyev and Boris Yeltsin will meet later this month to put their signatures to the agreements.

Early Cease-Fire Called For in Afghanistan

LD1908164292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1612 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By "Khovar" News Agency for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 19 TASS—The latest incidents in Afghanistan cause anxiety and concern among the people of the world, particularly in the neighbouring states, including the Republic of Tajikistan, according to a statement on the political situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, distributed here today by the Foreign Ministry of Tajikistan.

The statement expressed regret over the renewed killings of Afghan people as a result of the war. The Republic of Tajikistan called on the warring sides for an early cease-fire and to resolve all problems at the negotiation table.

Weapons, Drugs Smuggled in From Afghanistan

LD2108042192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The problem of immigration is being discussed in Tajikistan, but there it has a quite specific nature. Crowds of people are migrating in both directions across the Tajik-Afghan border with weapons which they acquire in Afghanistan.

President Nabiyev visited the border and thanked the officers and soldiers of the border units who, in spite of all the difficulties, are striving to prevent smugglers from bringing weapons and drugs into Tajikistan.

Nabiyev also held talks with leaders of various groups in Kurgan-Tyube oblast. A protocol was signed which once again stresses the sides' efforts to fulfill the obligations undertaken earlier for a peaceful settlement of the situation and for the handover of weapons.

Tajiks in Afghanistan Called 'Common Smugglers'

MK2108085092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 3

[Igor Rotar report under "Tajikistan" rubric incorporating interview with Tajik Republic Foreign Minister Khudoberdi Kholiknazarov; place and date of interview not given: "Hekmatyar Arming Islamic Revival Party? 'It Is an American Magazine's Canard,' Tajik Foreign Minister Says"]

[Excerpts] An ITAR-TASS correspondent has reported from New York that Islamic paramilitary formations are springing up in Tajikistan, armed and trained by Hekmatyar, leader of the militarily most powerful grouping of Afghan mojahedin. The U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK reported this citing diplomatic and government sources in Dushanbe. [passage omitted]

A NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent contacted Khudoberdi Kholiknazarov, Republic of Tajikistan minister of foreign relations.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Mr. Minister, seeing that NEWSWEEK is citing your department, could you comment on the U.S. weekly's report?

[Kholiknazarov] It is just another canard. It is clearly advantageous to certain forces that a tense situation is maintained in Tajikistan. When our delegation was in Kabul, representatives of that state's defense minister, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, confirmed our belief that many of the several hundred inhabitants of our republic who are now in Afghanistan illegally are common smugglers and have nothing to do with the Islamic Revival Party.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] What position did Ahmad Shah Mas'ud take at the talks?

[Kholiknazarov] The defense minister confirmed his readiness to close the border. The difficulty is that the Pyandzh sector of the border, which is the most tense, is controlled on the Afghan side (Konduz Province) by field commander Abdullatif, a supporter of Islamic Party of Afghanistan leader Golboddin [Hekmatyar]. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud promised us that, as soon as the situation in Kabul becomes normal, the Afghan Government will take control of Konduz Province as well. "Border violators will be arrested on the Afghan side," Ahmad Shah Mas'ud stated.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] It is good that the Afghan Government has no difference of opinion with the Afghan defense minister over border questions, but Hekmatyar's position remains unclear.

[Kholiknazarov] I do not know the Islamic Party of Afghanistan leader's position because neither I nor any other representative of ours has met with him—you must know that he has a frankly anti-Tajik position, but I believe Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's promises to impose order on the border.

President, Government Envoy Visit Kurgan-Tyube

OW1908143492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev, Supreme Council Chairman Akbarsho Iskandarov, and some other top Tajik statesmen have today left for Kurgan-Tyube, near which an unidentified armed group previously attacked some people in one of the villages killing one, wounding five, and taking one of them hostage.

The Tajik leaders will apparently meet members of the local government and leaders of conflicting political groups to discuss possibilities of disarming illegal armed detachments.

Visits Border Guard Unit

LD1908212592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2053 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By KHOVAR correspondent Salohiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushnabe August 19 TASS—Tajik President Rakhman Nabiyev visited on Wednesday [19 August] conflict zones of the Kurgan-Tyubinsk region where he met with the regional center leadership and commanders of illegal armed formations of the warring sides.

The Tajik president made his trip to find ways for the soonest establishment of peace in the area and stabilisation of the political and social situation in the region.

Local residents are pinning great hopes on the president's visit. For the past three months the region has been torn by ethnic conflicts, there were many casualties among civilians and thousands of people had to leave their homes to become refugees.

During the meeting with the Tajik president the people demanded that tough measures be taken against those who refuse to obey by the orders to give up weapons and the role of law-enforcement bodies enhanced.

The Tajik president also visited the Pyandzhi border guard unit. The border guards of this region face considerable difficulties trying to prevent incessant violations of the state border. Some Tajik residents cross the border to the opposite bank of the Pyanzha to get weapons and offer armed resistance to the border guards on their way back.

The president highly assessed the service of the border guard personnel and granted money awards to the most distinguished servicemen. The president also said that 264,000 roubles confiscated from smugglers during one of the last armed incidents on the border would remain at the border guards' disposal.

Signs Protocol

OW2108020692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Rakhman Nabiyev has held talks with commanders of the armed formations of the warring sides in Kurgan-Tyube region. The reason for his trip is there was a recent attack of an unidentified armed group at the peasants of one of the local farms. One person was killed and five wounded in the skirmish.

The regional administration also joined the talks which transpired into signing a protocol on the results of their talks with the president. The protocol emphasizes the aspiration of sides to implement their commitments as regards peaceful settlement in the area and surrender of armed [word as received] by the illegal armed formations.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The total number of casualties in the confrontations of the armed groups representing political parties of different orientation, local ethnic groups and clans in Kurgan-Tyube region has amounted to nearly 1,000 dead this year.

Mr. Nabiyev also visited the Tajik-Afghan border. During his meeting with the officers and men of the border guards units he thanked them for their courageous efforts to prevent groups of arms and drugs smugglers from crossing into Tajikistan with their shipments.

Minister on Ties With Iran, Russia, Ukraine

AU2008175592 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Aug 92 p 8

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Khudoyberdi Khaliknazarov by Yuriy Kushko in Dushanbe; date not given: "Everybody Pursues His Own Policy. Tajik Politicians Have Introduced a Correction to Geography: Once Distant, Tehran has Become Much Closer to Dushanbe"]

[Text] The rapprochement with Iran is the result of a recent visit to that country of a highest-level Tajikistan delegation. This and other things were discussed in the interview that Khudoyberdi Khaliknazarov, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, gave to a HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent.

[Khaliknazarov] We regard the results of the trip as positive. Important documents were signed, first and foremost, a memorandum on the main principles of cooperation. Separate agreements dealt with economic, trade, science, and cultural problems. The Islamic Republic of Iran has granted Tajikistan a $50 million credit to purchase modern technologies for processing agricultural products. Part of this money will be used to purchase rice, sugar, flour, and a number of other products.

[Kushko] Can one assert that this trip has revealed the priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy?

[Khaliknazarov] We strive to develop good relationships with all countries, no matter whether they are Islamic or communist. Therefore, I would not assert that we are only oriented toward Iran. However, on the other hand, one should not forget about the ethnic, linguistic, and religious affinity that exists between Tajiks and Persians. Thus, politicians cannot fail to take into account the peoples' striving for a closer rapprochement.

[Kushko] The pro-Iranian orientation in the republic is really strong. However, not everybody takes this at its face value. I was a witness to a dispute between a Tajik young man and a Persian girl. The former was trying to prove that everything is fine in Iran and the latter was trying to prove that not everything is so smooth there. Whose side would you take in this dispute?

[Khaliknazarov] In the imagination of the greater part of the Tajik intelligentsia, Iran is a standard in the sphere of culture—in the broadest understanding of this word. It also appeals to me personally. Corruption does not prevail there because the clergy—the leading force in society—sees to it quite strictly that moral principles be adhered to. Much has also been achieved in the economic sphere.

[Kushko] Therefore, in all likelihood, the development of Tajikistan will follow the "Iranian model"?

[Khaliknazarov] It is too early to speak about this. The task of Tajik politicians and diplomats does not lie in imposing a particular model upon the people but in creating conditions for their communication with the entire world. Let people go to one another, exchange thoughts and ideas, and when such broad communication becomes a reality, then it will be time to make a choice.

[Kushko] There is much talk about the creation of an Islamic state in Tajikistan. For example, Mukhammad-Sharif Khimmatzoda, chairman of the Islamic Rebirth Party, does not rule out such a possibility. However, Qadi [judge] Akbar Turadzhonzoda (head of Tajik Moslems) rejects it.

[Khaliknazarov] I think that the qadi is closer to reality. Far from all the population of the republic is ready to live in accordance with the laws of the shari'ah. Moreover, only one out of four most influential opposition forces favors this idea. The three others are in favor of a secular government.

[Kushko] An impression arises that Iran and the United States show much more interest in this republic than Russia. Do you think that mistakes have been made on the part of Russian diplomacy regarding Tajikistan?

[Khaliknazarov] I would not attach such a tragic aspect to this question. The process of establishing and developing interstate relations between Russia and Tajikistan has its own patterns. Imperfection is a different matter. Perhaps it does exist.

[Kushko] In your opinion, what are the prospects for developing ties with Ukraine?

[Khaliknazarov] Of course, we would like to have the best relations with this state. I am looking forward to a meeting with my Ukrainian colleague in the near future. As soon as we have financial possibilities, we will try to open our office in Kiev.

European Firms Begin Food Shipments

LD1708130692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 17 Aug 92

[By KHOVAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 17 TASS—Major European firms began food shipments to Tajikistan. Among them are France's Cargel, Switzerland's Andre, Holland's Richko and Italy's Firuzia, with which the republican association Tajikvneshtorg concluded contracts.

The republic will receive a quarter of a million tonnes of grain, 60,000 tonnes of sugar and 14,000 tonnes of vegetable oil. Specialists believe, these shipments will fill to some extent Tajikistan's consumer market, which is very important at a time when the national economy posts a rapid nosedive.

Opportunities are currently explored for purchasing large batches of medicines which are sorely needed by the republic.

Government Application To Join IMF Approved

LD2008190992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0821 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By TIA "KHOVAR" for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe August 20 TASS—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the official application of Tajikistan to join the organization, according to the head of an IMF delegation to the republic, Henry Lori.

Lori met with the Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Tukhtaboy Gafarov on Thursday [20 August] for talks on the Central Asian republic's IMF membership.

Henry Lori said the International Monetary Fund is "extremely interested in establishing close and permanent relations with Tajikistan."

Tukhtaboy Gafarov told the IMF delegation the Tajik Government has worked out a program to to accelerate the transition of the national economy to market relations.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Meets Visiting Tajik Prime Minister

LD2008105692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By TURKMEN PRESS-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Ashgabat August 19 TASS—Tajikistan Prime Minister Akbar Mirzoyev on an official visit here was received by Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov on Wednesday [19 August]. The results of the negotiations in Ashgabat between representatives of the Governments of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were the main topic of the conversation.

Nazar Suyunov, deputy chairman of the Turkmenistan Cabinet of Ministers, told TURKMEN PRESS-TASS that the possibility of Tajikistan's participation in a number of international projects had been discussed during the negotiations. The main tendencies of the development of cooperation between the two countries in various areas of the national economy had been defined.

Summing up the results of Mirzoyev's visit, Suyunov noted that Tajikistan is striving to use broad opportunities and established international prestige of Turkmenistan for entering the world economic space.

President Niyazov Seeks New Oil Policy

OW2108024692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov has asked experts from the republic's oil industry to submit their proposals on branch management and developing the oil industry to the government. The Presidential Press Service told an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent that this decision was influenced by the dramatic change in the industry's priorities. The industry used to meet the center's needs in oil rather than concentrate on national interests.

Saparmurad Niyazov believes that a new oil policy is necessary to speed up the solution of the republic's social problems and Turkmenistan's integration in the world economic system.

The President says that the republic must have and implement a new oil policy, since "independent oil is the key to foreign investment and the introduction of a national currency and its convertibility, which guarantees Turkmenistan's economic independence," points out the press service.

Crude Cotton Purchasing Prices To Be Raised

OW1808191192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 18 Aug 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In anticipation of the harvesting period, President Saparmurad Niyazov has raised purchasing prices for crude cotton in 1992. Cotton, depending on its grade and quality, will be purchased by the wholesale dealers at a price from 8 to 37 thousand rubles for manual cropping and from 8 to 25 thousand rubles for machine cropping.

The heads of local administrations, interested ministries and agencies have been instructed to take measures for "raising the competitiveness of Turkmenian cotton at the world market". A share of the resources released as a result of increase of the purchasing prices will be directed to stimulating the quality of cotton cropped in the republic.

The president's resolution also envisages introduction of general procedures for cotton harvesting, storage, and mutual accounting by way of delegating the above elements from cotton growers to specially set cotton purchasing enterprises.

Residents To Get Free Electricity, Water

LD1508193292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Report by K. Babayev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Turkmen Government has made a decision that as of the new year, electricity and water will be free for the republic's population.

[Babayev] This is not altruism or a populist gesture even though the statement was made on the eve of the presidential elections; rather, it is a kind of compensation. The average monthly wage in Turkmenistan is noticeably lower than in Russia because of the lack of cash. There is more than enough gas and electricity, although not necessarily water, in the republic. The whole issue depends on what principles the free distribution of electricity is to be implemented. When something is free there is no control.

[Begin N.T. Suyunov, deputy head of the government, recording] There will be a quota, and above this quota there will be a completely different tariff, the possible size of which will absolutely touch everyone and make them responsible for using the quantity that the state gives free. [Word *indistinct*] enterprises, in this case, are not released from contributions to the budget out of the profits they have. On the contrary, the system of control has improved. [end recording]

Uzbekistan

President Signs Social Security Decree

OW2108024592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov has signed a decree on measures for insuring social security of low-income stratum of the Uzbek population in the context of the current housing privatization campaign. The decree envisages free allocation of rooms, apartments and individual houses, irrespective of their ownership, to the families of servicemen who have lost their lives, invalids, Afghan war veterans, blind people, families with seven children and more aged below 18 years old.

The decree also provides for the orphaned children, either adopted or fostered. In addition, liable to these privileges are the families who have lost the breadwinner; the families with three or more disabled members; the families with the persons who were subject to the repressions of the 1930s-1950s, presently rehabilitated; the families whose members were taking part in the liquidation of the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant catastrophe.

The INTERFAX correspondent was told in the Uzbek president's press service that the republic's government has taken a whole number of measures aimed at providing social protection to the population during the transition period to the market-type relations. Earlier, President Karimov's decrees provided the right to free privatization to the invalids and participants of the Second World War, teachers, medical and creative workers.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The president's decree provides assistance to 474,555 families with seven children and more; 25,535 families of servicemen who have lost their lives, 27,730 families with three or more disabled members; the families with the persons who were subject to the repressions of the 1930s-1950s. The total number of families—beneficiaries of the presidential decree amounts to 608,786.

Armenia

Prime Minister Flies to Moscow for Talks

NC2008184192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan left for Moscow today to hold talks with the Russian leadership on a number of issues of common concern.

Arutyunyan Wants 'Permanent' Karabakh Observers

OW2008190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1834 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan has stated that "the UN has no right assume the position of detached observer in the conflict in Karabakh". At a press conference on Thursday [20 August] in Yerevan he said that Armenians are, as before, strongly counting on UN and CSCE efforts to resolve the conflict, but, he considered, too little was being done.

Arutyunyan is of the opinion that "brief visits to the region make an accurate assessment of the situation impossible". It is essential to send a permanent group of international observers to the region. This, in the president's opinion, would prevent Azerbaijan from unfurling the "noisy propaganda campaign" against Armenia which asserts that the latter is preparing a massive-scale attack on Azeri border regions.

"It is obvious that these statements are made to justify the Azeri attacks on Zangezur and other regions of Armenia", Arutyunyan stressed.

Spokesman: Azeris Planning 'Large-Scale War'

LD2008162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 20 TASS—The leadership of Armenia believes that Azerbaijan "pursues quite a concrete aim—to annex territory of Republic of Armenia, just as was the case with the Armenian village of Artsvashen," Aram Abramyan, deputy press secretary of the president of Armenia, told ITAR-TASS today.

Azerbaijan sharply intensified military operations at the border with Armenia's Krasnoselsk, Idzhevan, Goris, Taush, and Vardenis districts in recent days, the spokesman said.

The operations are involving artillery, armoured vehicles, as well as large forces of Azerbaijani infantry. Azerbaijani aircraft regularly intrude into Armenia's air space. A particularly hard situation develop in the republic's Goris District where tens of civilians were killed or wounded on Wednesday, Abramyan said.

"Every time when Azerbaijan's mass media raise a propagandistic uproar about an allegedly prepared Armenian attack on Azerbaijan, the armed forces of that republic themselves launch an aggression against Armenia, seeking to draw it into a large-scale war," Abramyan said.

Prime Minister Discusses Economic 'Crisis'

PM2008121592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Aug 92 Morning Edition p2

[Interview with Armenian Prime Minister Gagik Arutyunyan by correspondent Sergey Bablumyan; date and place not given: ""I Am Prepared To Receive My Salary Last...""]

[Text] [Bablumyan] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you view the situation in the republic's economy? What does the government intend to do next?

[Arutyunyan] We certainly have a crisis situation on our hands. Output continues to fall and commodity shortages are worsening. Compared to the first six months of last year, Armenia's gross national product is down 43.3 percent. We have all the signs of inflation.

We can only use 30 percent of our production capacity—that is the result of the energy crisis and transport blockade which Armenia has suffered for more than a year. We only receive 6-6.5 million cubic metres of gas per day, or 25 percent of our requirement. Moreover, you have to take into account that gas is supplied to us solely via Georgian territory, although frequent problems on the gas main and construction faults in the gas pipeline itself often cause unforeseen disruptions too.

The main task at present is to prepare for the coming winter. Unfortunately, so far we have only been able to fill our warehouses with 140,000 tonnes of fuel oil, whereas we need at least 740,000 tonnes. But we must do everything we can to save our people from cold. Otherwise, those who froze last winter will lose all faith in the government.

[Bablumyan] People were not only cold last winter, they were hungry as well...

[Arutyunyan] That is why bread is our prime concern. Most of our grain is supplied from abroad, so we must determine our financial possibilities as soon as possible. Another, perhaps no less serious problem for the republic is cash flow. Students, people who work in budget-funded organizations, and pensioners have not received their grants, wages, or pensions for months. The situation is quite intolerable.

[Bablumyan] How would you react to the suggestion that you, your deputies, and the entire Cabinet of Ministers receive their salary last?

[Arutyunyan] That would be fine by me. Indeed, why should some people be guaranteed receipt of their wages at a certain time, while others have to go without them for months? Of course, it is naive to believe that not paying the Cabinet of Ministers or parliament will solve the cash problem, but the moral side of the issue is important here. As for me, I am prepared to accept your proposal.

[Bablumyan] It is usual to explain away all the misfortunes which have befallen Armenia by quoting objective factors: the collapse of the former Soviet Union's economic and administrative systems, failure to honor supply contracts, and so forth. Nevertheless, surely there must be some problems which Armenia could resolve independently, relying solely on its own resources?

[Arutyunyan] I think that, even with our extremely limited resources, we could be fairly successful if we improved the efficiency of our management structures.

There is now a great deal of talk about anarchy and the sharp decline in performance discipline. All this is true. Unfortunately, we have developed a rather distorted view of democracy. We probably all need to live in conditions of anarchy for a period of time in order to feel the need for order. But this order must be solely within the bounds of laws guaranteeing society's democratic development.

There is something else I would like to mention. Obviously, you too are aware of what is happening with the population's bread supply. However, the situation is caused not so much by problems with grain as by bad organization. Having shot up in price for objective reasons, a loaf of bread now weighs 300 grams less. That means that people are having to pay an extra two or three rubles per kilogram. Once again, references to external factors are inappropriate. The same can be said of the consumer services sphere. In short, by improving organization, we could achieve fairly tangible results without making any financial outlays.

I think that Armenia's present administrative structure is inadequate to the situation and should be reviewed. That is another reserve for improving economic efficiency.

[Bablumyan] My last question, Mr. Prime Minister, does not relate to the subject of our conversation but is fairly topical. What is your opinion of Moscow newspapers and of IZVESTIYA in particular?

[Arutyunyan] I intend to find out why IZVESTIYA is no longer printed and distributed in our republic. I believe that Moscow newspapers, particularly IZVESTIYA, aid understanding of what is going on around us, and I see the press not simply as a source of information but as an important instrument for shaping public opinion. I wish your editorial collective every success.

President Wants Legislation on Draft Evaders

OW1808190492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1707 GMT 18 Aug 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has signed a decree to set up commissions for investigating cases of "evading conscription to military". According to an Interior Ministry directive, the State National Security Department and the republican Military Commissariat will set up such commissions in all towns and regions of the country before August 22. A list of the commissions' members should be submitted to the President by August 25.

Armenia's Military Commissar is empowered to organize and control the commissions' activities. As the directive stipulates, the decree was signed "with the consideration of aggravating situation in the republic's remote regions and the need to strengthen discipline in the armed forces in order to put an and to cases of evasion".

Party Official Survives Assassination Attempt

NC2008161192 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Yerevan, 20 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The newly elected leader of the National Self-Determination Association [NSA], Armen Zatikyan, and a member of the NSA Presidium, Ashot Abrahamyan, survived an assassination attempt at around 2200 on 18 August. Abrahamyan was taken to a hospital with a shoulder wound.

Four or five men wearing soldiers' uniforms carried out the attempt.

A criminal investigation has been initiated and investigations are continuing.

Azerbaijan

Combat Operations Continue in Nagorno-Karabakh

OW2008135792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri Defence Ministry told IF [INTERFAX] that on Wednesday [19 August] evening, the Azeri Air Force carried out a bomb attack on the positions of the Armenian expedition corps in the south of Karabakh to eliminate the enemy's fire points. Bombs were dropped on the Armenian positions near the villages of Khodzhavend, Gadrut, Gishi and Khunushinar.

The Azeri Defence Ministry also reports that combat operations continue in the northern and southern parts of Karabakh. In the south, the Armenian forces' attempts to seize the villages of Edilli and Dudukchu were rebuffed last night. During the operation 1 artillery piece and 1 armored vehicle were destroyed. In the north, fighting continues in the Agderi region where the Azeri self-defence forces have broadened the zone of control around mount Kasapet and the village of Kasapet.

On Wednesday evening, Azeri formations established control over a tourist camp which the Armenian forces had used as the command post of the Armenian expedition crops in northern Karabakh, says the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. Baku reports that over the past two days, personnel and armored equipment have been concentrating on the border between Armenia and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

The news agency KAN reports that on Thursday [20 August], at about 12:00, an Azeri Su-25 plane which dropped bombs on the Armenian village of Childran was shot down in Karabakh's Mardakert region. The plane fell in the territory controlled by Armenian formations. No reports have arrived so far about the fate of the pilot.

On Wednesday evening, following fierce fighting in which the Azeri side used a great deal of armored equipment, the Armenian self-defence teams had to leave the village of Metshen and the dam of the Sarsang water reservoir. Both sides have sustained losses.

On Thursday morning Azeri Su-25 attack planes resumed bomb attacks on the regional center of Martuni and the village of Karmirshuk. KAN reports that both ordinary and pellet bombs were used. Several buildings were destroyed. Information about victims is being verified.

KAN also reports that over the past 24 hours the Azeri armed forces shelled villages in the Goris and Kapan regions of Armenia. Seven people were killed and more than a dozen were wounded.

Armenian Task Force Commander Executed

OW2108140792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1346 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A death sentence has been carried out on General Karo Karoyan, the commander of an Armenian task force in Nagorno- Karabakh. The Azeri Interior Ministry has disclosed to IF [INTERFAX] that General Karoyan was taken prisoner in fighting.

The Ministry described the General as "a key figure in punitive operations against Azeri communities in Karabakh responsible for the operation to capture the town of Khodzhaly".

Captured Pilot: Paid for Bombing Stepanakert

LD2008222492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Aug 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] An Azerbaijani SU-25 ground attack aircraft was shot down today by a Strela heat-seeking missile over the village of Chebran in Mardakertskiy Rayon in Nagorno-Karabakh. According to a report by the KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY, it managed to drop bombs on Stepanakert.

A report has just come in that the pilot is alive. He has been taken prisoner. He is 25-year old Ukrainian (Yuriy Verchenko), who at his interrogation said he was paid 100,000 [currency not specified] per sortie. We await confirmation of this report since it has come from the Spanish news agency EFE, so it probably came via a multitude of intermediaries.

Explosion Reported at Baku Military Depot

LD2108083792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0743 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 21 Aug—It already has been reported that a series of explosions was heard on the outskirts of Baku. According to verified information, explosions took place at military dumps belonging to the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Explosions, which continued between midnight and 0700, were preceded by a fire which flared up in warehouses and which is still going on, AZERINFORM reports.

According to the information provided by the Baku ambulance service, three soldiers have been wounded by pieces of glass knocked out by a blast, although unit's quarters are situated far from the center of the explosion. There is no information on other casualties. Families of servicemen already have been evacuated from the dangerous zone.

President Lifts Bread Price Restrictions

OW2008173292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan has decreed that as of September 1 restrictions will be lifted on prices for bread products. Along with this he moved to compensate the inevitable price hike with the monthly payment of 80 Roubles to people earning less than 3000 Roubles a month and 90 Roubles to the non-working old-age pensioners.

President Elchibey has suggested that the national Parliament consider releasing bread trade of the added value tax by lowering the trade surplus on bread products by 90 percent.

Azerbaijan will earmark more hard currency to buy grain abroad. And, beginning with next year, it will launch special efforts to increase its own grain production.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: The press service under the Azeri President has informed Interfax that the insistence on state control over prices for bread coupled with the moves to lift restrictions on grain trade has turned the baking industry into a loser. The President's inner circle feels the low prices have made the consumer unconcerned about the rational use of bread products. Farmers used to raise livestock on bread because bread sold cheaper than regular fodder. The new decree aims to eliminate the resulting problems with bread supplies.

Interior, Defense Ministers Oppose Joining CIS

NC2008153592 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1126 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 20.08.92 (ASSA-IRADA)—"Something like a scum on the water," that is how the CIS is defined by Azeri Defense Minister Ragim Gaziyev. The commonwealth has no political, economic, and law ground, the minister said in the interview to the Popular Front's "AZADLYG" newspaper. As for [Azerbaijani Interior Minister] Iskander Gamidov he was more flat: "If Azerbaijan joins CIS, I will resign and to rally on the square."

Justice Ministry Reports New Political Parties

NC2008153692 Baku TURAN in English 1418 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Baku, 20/08/92 (TURAN)—TURAN correspondent was informed by the Justice Ministry of Azerbaijan that the Department for Registration and Work with Socio-Political Organizations under the Justice Ministry has registered 8 parties in the August of this year. These parties are - for National Independence, of Rebirth and Progress, of Motherland, Republican Party, of People's Freedom, National-Democratic, People's-Democratic and the People's Party for Rebirth.

The head of the department Nazim Nagiyev said that 15 parties more have submitted their documents for registration and the Justice Ministry board is going to consider the question of their registration during the next sitting.

Judge by everything, such an upsurge of political activity in Azerbaijan could be explained by the political gap, widening between different trends, just recently stood on the common positions.

Observers outline that the Party for National Independence, headed by Etibar Mamedov remains the main political rival in Azerbaijan to the Popular Front.

Electricity Restored to Nakhichevan

LD2108100992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0912 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Aug—Electrical power began to reach the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic through the territory of Armenia last night. This happened in accordance with an agreement between government delegations from Armenia and Azerbaijan that was reached a day earlier at talks held near the Nakhichevan settlement of Sadarak. The protocol that was adopted notes that, in the course of next week, Azerbaijan will restore rail traffic at the Norashen and Akstafa-Idzhevan junctions.

The talks passed off in a businesslike and constructive spirit, with complete mutual understanding. It was noteworthy that the sides avoided mutual claims, agreeing to the setting up of a special group that would subsequently give routine consideration to contentious issues.

Commenting on the results of the talks at the request of an ARMENPRESS correspondent, Armenian State Minister Ruben Chiftalaryan and Alesker Sadykhov, first vice premier of the Nakhichevan Republic, expressed the view that a substantial basis had been formed for the improvement of relations between the two republics, and that that would undoubtedly help to normalize the situation in the region.

Further Reportage on Abkhaz Conflict, Measures

Shevardnadze: Troops To Leave Sukhumi

LD2008170292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1533 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Sitnikov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 20 TASS—Units of Georgian National Guard will be withdrawn from Sukhumi on Thursday [20 August], Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said at a meeting of the republican State Council.

Police and Georgian interior troops will jointly maintain order in the city. Georgian guardsmen will control entry and exit routes to and from Sukhumi, as well as roads, railways and bridges, he added.

The decision was taken to avoid further escalation of tension in the administrative centre of Abkhazia. "The guard is not necessary in Sukhumi," Ivliyan Khayndrava, a member of the State Council, told the meeting after returning from a fact-finding mission to Abkhazia. "The danger of extremism remains rather high. The presence of National Guard units in Sukhumi increases it," he said, adding that the troops staying idle in the city are dangerous and even the Georgian part of the city residents may get annoyed if they are not withdrawn. The National Guard should not fulfill punitive functions, Khayndrava said.

The situation in Abkhazia is extremely complicated. Shootings, looting and robberies continue there, Shevardnadze said, adding the Georgian Government, nevertheless, ensured the parliaments of Russia and Turkey that it would do its utmost to settle the conflict peacefully.

Shevardnadze regretted the way Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhazian parliament speaker, acts. "I do not want the (Ardzinba's) case make us look for materials compromising him, however, this is likely to happen, unfortunately," he said. [sentence as received]

Moscow Television Updates Situation

LD2008173492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

["Novosti" newscast video report by R. Khoshig]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours military actions have continued on Abkhazian territory. Intense fighting is taking place in the village of Eshera, near Sukhumi. Abkhazian guardsmen are holding the Georgian State Council's troops in check. In the capital of Abkhazia itself, looting and the seizing of hostages are on an unbelievable scale. Historical and cultural monuments, museums, and scientific institutions, including the Russian Academy of Sciences' unique Institution of Experimental Pathology and Therapy, have been looted or destroyed.

During the night of 19-20 August, a group of State Council paratroopers landed on the Russian-Abkhazian border. Evidently a strike against the town of Gudauta is being prepared. At the moment the Abkhazian parliament and government are situated there, as well as thouands of refugees, including Russian speakers from other parts of the republic.

In the towns of Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli and also in Ochamchirskiy Rayon, the armed confrontation has become partisan in nature. The proposal by Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazian Republic's Supreme Soviet, to hold a meeting on Russian territory has not received a reply from Shevardnadze. The Abkhazian leadership is insisting on the complete withdrawal of armed formations from the territory of the Republic of Abkhazia.

The evacuation of Russian citizens who have gathered at Abkhazia's resorts is not going smoothly either.

Shevardnadze Calls Situation 'Grave'

LD2008180892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 20 TASS—Chairman of the State Council of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze described on Thursday [20 August] the situation in Abkhazia as grave. The State Council held a meeting today to set out urgent measures to stabilise the situation in the autonomous region.

The crime rate in the republic, especially in Sukhumi, has soared, as the city is swept with a wave of robbery and looting. In this connection the military commandant of Sukhumi, Major General Georgiy Gulua, was forced to order troops to shoot looters on the spot.

Shevardnadze stressed in his speech that if the rampage of crime in Abkhazia is not checked in time, all efforts to stabilise the situation in the autonomous republic will fail. All the more so that the pull-out of the government troops began in Sukhumi on Thursday, leaving only police and Georgian interior troops to enforce law and order.

The State Council of Georgia, proceeding from the current grave situation in the autonomous republic, decided to instruct the national army to impose an immediate state of emergency on the railway and to begin talks to release hostages captured by warring factions during hostilities in Abkhazia.

The State Council set up a government commission, led by First Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia Otar Kvilitaya, to deal with the socio-economic problems in Abkhazia.

In order to stabilise the socio-political situation in the autonomous republic the State Council found it expedient to recommend to the parliament to call an emergency session of the Supreme Soviet.

This package of measures to stabilise the situation is the last in a series of important decisions by the State Council to delineate the terms of reference between supreme bodies of government of Georgia and Abkhazia, which will be later fixed in the constitutions.

Russian Troops Reportedly Under Fire

OW2008185292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources in the Transcaucasian military district told INTERFAX that in Sukhumi Thursday [20 August] there was repeated firing from automatic weapons on the location of a Russian landing battalion deployed there. During one of the instances return fire killed one sniper whose identity is currently being established.

Sources in the military district believe this is an attempt by the separatist part of the Abkhazian leadership to draw Russian troops into the conflict in Abkhazia. According to information from one source, leader of the Abkhazian Parliament Vladislav Ardzinba is not giving up his attempts to draw a third party into the conflict. For example, he appealed for aid to the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples, after which armed groups from the Northern Caucasus began arriving in Abkhazia.

According to a well informed source in the military, up to 200 Chechens armed with automatic rifles arrived in the Lake Ritsa region. They reached Abkhazian territory from rough mountain paths in the Great Caucasian Mountain Range. There is information in Tbilisi about the arrival in Abkharia of approximately 100 fighters from Karachayevo-Cherkesiya.

Under the circumstances the Georgian leadership is counting on the existing mutual obligation with Russia to jointly put a stop to the actions of illegal military formations.

State Council Takes 'Urgent Measures'

OW2008190692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] The Georgian State Council considers it essential to propose "the urgent convening of the Abkhazian parliament with the aim of stabilising the social and political situation in the autonomous republic." The decree passed on Thursday [20 August] by the State Council on urgent measures to restore order in Abkhazia authorises a temporary clause on the demarcation of competence of the highest echelons of power both in Georgia and Abkhazia to be drawn up within the period of one month and embodied in the constitutions of both nations. The decree states that the principle of the integrity and sovereignty of the state of Georgia must form the basis of the temporary clause.

The decree also underlines the necessity for commencing, in the very near future, negotiations for the release of hostages taken during clashes between the Georgian army and the Abkhazian guards. A decision has been made on forming a government commission for the resolution of social and economic problems in the conflict areas of Abkhazia.

The Georgian State Council has confirmed that the only means of resolving the conflict in Abkhazia is by political dialogue.

It also instructed Georgian national army units stationed on Abkhazian territory to ensure the immediate enforcement of the state of emergency on the railways. [passage omitted]

12,000 Evacuated From Abkhazia

LD2108094492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 21 TASS—More than 6,000 people were evacuated from Abkhazia by sea to Sochi over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of evacuees to 12,000. Most of them have been despatched by rail and air to Russia and other Commonwealth countries, ITAR-TASS was told by a source at the Russian Defence Ministry.

According to the same source, landing stages in Pitsunda are blocked by militants who hamper the evacuation from the conflict zone. Four hundred and thirty nine people were flown from Gudauty to Russian cities, according to a source at the command point of the anti-aircraft troops in the region. More are expected to be flown soon.

[In a related report, Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0927 GMT on 21 August, adds: "The evacuation of tourists and families of serviceman from Sukhumi has been practically completed, Sochi administration head Nikolay Karpov told ITAR-TASS.

["Later today the last group of people from holiday resorts in Pitsunda are expected to board the Dauria ship which is now under way to pick them up. Trains are already awaiting them at the Sochi railway terminal where people will be brought straight from the port.

["The situation is more complicated for Georgians who would like to get back home from Russia, Karpov said. About 1,000 Georgians are now awaiting decision in Sochi. The Sochi administration is against sending them home by sea as there is no guarantee of safety at ports of destination.

["Karpov believes that the only dependable way out is for the Georgian Government to send ships to fetch their compatriots. As the Georgian Government has not responded to the previous appeal, the Sochi administration head sent a telegram to Georgian Prime Minister Tenghiz Sigua to remind him of the emergency.

["As evacuation from Abkhazia is nearing completion, two Black Sea Fleet transport ships—Apsheron and Yenisei, which brought nearly 2,000 people to Sochi from Sukhumi last night—have left for Sevastopol."]

Talks Linked to Troop Withdrawal

LD2108110292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 21 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi August 21 TASS—Abkhazian Parliamentary Speaker Vladislav Ardzinba issued an ultimatum to Georgia on Friday [21 August] saying Abkhazia will not begin talks with Georgia until Georgian troops leave the republic.

"We will not begin talks with the Georgian State Council until all of its armed units, including police ones, leave the territory of Abkhazia," Ardzinba told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

He refused to provide details on the situation in Gudauta and nearby districts populated mostly by Abkhazians.

Georgia, which repeatedly reiterated its adherence to peaceful political methods of conflict settlement, withdrew Army troops from Sukhumi on Friday, but Georgian Interior Ministry troops still remain there.

Shevardnadze To Use Force To Restore Order

*AU2108114192 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German
21 Aug 92 p 5*

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian State Council chairman, by Christian Wernicke in Tbilisi; date not given: "We Must Not Capitulate"]

[Text] [Wernicke] Are anarchy and chaos the legacy of communism in the Caucasus one year after the dissolution of the Soviet Union?

[Shevardnadze] Independence took the people by surprise. Our societies are overtaxed. It is not easy to say something like that about one's own nation: Our political culture made these wrong developments possible. After the peoples discovered themselves, they unfortunately believed that they would be able to improve their situation only by force. This just made everything worse. However, I will not deviate from my path: respect for human rights, guarantee of national compromise, and peace so that a democratic society can develop.

[Wernicke] This is similar to what you promised in your manifesto on national reconciliation.

[Shevardnadze] I have made all possible concessions in this manifesto. We have forgiven the followers of ex-President Gamsakhurdia. As you know very well, this is not necessarily a way of action all over the world. We also released those who attempted a coup d'etat in June from prison—even those who were accused of serious crimes.

[Wernicke] But the battles between your government and the followers of your predecessor are becoming increasingly brutal and bloody day by day.

[Shevardnadze] Yes, many do not even seem to have read my manifesto. Instead, representatives of my government, who had set out on peaceful negotiations, were kidnapped. They blow up railroad bridges. In Ossetia seven of our soldiers were killed in one night. This means only one thing: These forces are no longer political forces. They are only bandits and terrorists. So, what should we do? After all, we cannot wait until they have destroyed everything. We must not capitulate.

[Wernicke] Does the state in Georgia still have the situation under control at all?

[Shevardnadze] I am now ready to use force and to establish order within the framework of the law. We have the strength to do that. Unfortunately, I am now forced to prove it, because it is against my principles to use force at all. This is the first time in my political career that I support the use of force, because I think that this is the lesser evil compared to useless concessions and endless negotiations.

[Wernicke] But in Ossetia you did not manage to establish order on your own. There are now mainly Russian soldiers there, who defuse the conflict.

[Shevardnadze] There are probably not many countries that would have taken the path I have chosen. After all, the Russian Army was called an occupation army here. Nevertheless, I agreed to let the Russian troops come to Ossetia. Without Russian help we would not have achieved a cease-fire there. This decision was very difficult for me. A considerable part of the Georgians do not support this decision.

[Wernicke] Should the West help to separate the conflict parties in your country's areas of crises, for instance with NATO troops?

[Shevardnadze] This would be possible. I would only welcome this. If Russian troops can be here, why should NATO troops be different? The problem is, after all: As soon as blood has been shed, all international organizations decide to act. But by then it is already very late.

It would be necessary for the world to become active already before the outbreak of conflicts. Georgia is only a small country. It would probably not make much of a difference to this world whether or not we continue to exist. However, the experiences of a small country could also be useful for the big powers of this world—in particular because the world has not yet overcome all conflicts.

[Wernicke] The economic crisis is exacerbating the conflicts. Economic experts complain that the reforms in Georgia are being implemented too slowly.

[Shevardnadze] This is not true. We have already concluded the privatization of agriculture. No other republic of the Soviet Union has come as far as we have.

[Wernicke] What would you like to get from the Germans as a contribution?

[Shevardnadze] They are welcome here. There are many opportunities here; one can work in Georgia. You see, I receive a great number of guests here. However, if I then evaluate these contacts, I see very few results.

[Wernicke] Perhaps you have a higher reputation internationally as the former foreign minister of the former Soviet Union—a higher reputation in any case than among many Georgians, who still remember you as the security and party chief of Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] We all must remember that the entire world, just like this country, has changed radically. In the past I was the head of the Communist Party in this country. The Soviet Union was a totalitarian state, and Georgia was part of this state. However, today I work with a State Council, 40 percent of which are former dissidents. Today they are my strongest allies.

Times have changed, the situation has changed—we all must change together. So far Europe has not kept pace with these changes.

Shevardnadze Defends 'Tidying-Up Operation'

AU2008180592 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 17 Aug 92 p 7

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian State Council chairman, by Wojciech Jagielski in Tbilisi; date not given: "Eduard Shevardnadze Talks to GAZETA"]

[Text] [Jagielski] As USSR foreign affairs minister, you attended to the removal of Soviet Army troops from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Afghanistan. Now, as Georgian leader, you have dispatched soldiers to suppress the revolt in Abkhazia.

[Shevardnadze] We had no other choice. This is not a political action but a purely tidying-up operation. Terrorist groups are operating in Mingrelia [region in western Georgia] and Abkhazia. In spite of our requests and pressure exerted by us, the local authorities have done nothing to put a halt to the banditism. We could not tolerate this any longer.

[Jagielski] In Abkhazia, however, shooting has broken out. The Abkhaz authorities have accused Georgia of aggression and have turned to Russia for help.

[Shevardnadze] Abkhazia is a part of Georgia. The whole world, including Russia, has recognized Georgia within its current borders. Even from this formal point of view, the Georgian Government has the right to dispatch troops to any corner of the country. Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Council, was warned that troops would be sent in if Abkhazia did not ensure security with its own forces.

[Jagielski] Will it be possible to avoid an armed conflict in Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] My views on the use of troops for political aims are well known. We, for our part, will do everything to avoid a conflict with the Abkhaz. We are counting on the common sense of the Abkhaz politicians. I repeat, the troops are not there to pacify Mingrelia and Abkhazia but to struggle against bandits and guard the railways and roads.

[Jagielski] Is it true that militants from the Republic of Chechnya have arrived in Sukhumi, and is it really a fact that General Moskalenko, commander of the air forces of the Transcaucasian Military District, has given weapons to the Abkhaz?

[Shevardnadze] I believe these are only rumors.

[Jagielski] How are you managing to cooperate with people whom, a dozen years or so ago, you sent to prison as antisocialist elements?

[Shevardnadze] There was a time when I believed in communism. Life has proved that this path led to an abyss. We all make mistakes, and we all change. Representatives of all the most important Georgian parties are sitting in the State Council. We differ in our views, sometimes even greatly. However, we are all concerned with only one thing—saving Georgia from catastrophe. This goal unites us all. The rest is not so important at this time.

Shevardnadze Guarantees Ukrainians' Security

OW2008135992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a reply telegram to Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin in which he shares the Ukrainian government's concern about the position of Ukrainian citizens in Abkhazia.

The telegram says that the Georgian leaders will do everything they can to guarantee Ukrainians' safety.

A governmental commission led by Georgia's Deputy Prime Minister Surguladze has been set up to evacuate Ukrainian citizens from the conflict zone. The Georgian Defence Ministry has been instructed to assist the commission at whose disposal ships, food and medicines have been placed.

Government Adopts Rules for Military Service

AU1908153592 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 17 Jul 92 p 2

["Provisional Regulations for Universal Military Service in the Republic of Georgia" ratified by the Georgian Supreme Council on 3 July in Tbilisi]

[Text] The Provisional Regulations for Universal Military Service in the Republic of Georgia are based on the Georgian Constitution. They take into account the current military situation and conditions. The provisional regulations determine the rules according to which citizens of the Republic of Georgia are to perform military service.

Chapter 1

General Regulations

Article 1. Each citizen of the Republic of Georgia is personally obliged to perform universal military service.

Article 2. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Georgia are to be composed of land, naval, and air forces and air defense and border troops.

Article 3. Military service is to be divided into mixed (compulsory and professional) and reserve military service.

Those performing military service are to be called servicemen while those in the reserve are to be called reservists.

Reserve formations are to be built up to prescribed strength and are to undergo appropriate military training according to the mobilization plan of the Ministry of Defense that is to be approved by the the republic's Government.

Article 4. A citizen called up for military service is to swear a military oath. Violation of the military oath is a most serious crime and is punishable by law.

Article 5. Servicemen are to be divided according to rank into privates (sailors), sergeants, ranking NCO's (warrant officers), and officer personnel.

Officers of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces are to be subdivided into:

a) junior officer personnel—from lieutenant to captain and those holding equivalent ranks;

b) senior-grade officers—from senior captain to colonel, including those holding equivalent ranks;

c) general and flag officers—generals and admirals.

Article 6. Privates (sailors), sergeants, and ranking NCO's (warrant officers) who are performing military service established in law are to be viewed as performing compulsory military service while those who serve for a longer period are to be viewed as performing extended military service.

Article 7. Each serviceman and reservist is to be given an appropriate military rank.

Chapter II

The Rules for Performing Universal Military Service

Article 8. Young men who have reached the age of 18 before the call-up day are to be conscripted into universal military service. The maximum call-up age is 25.

Article 9. After they have taken the appropriate entrance examinations, young men with a secondary education are to be enrolled in service schools and called cadets.

Cadets enrolled in service schools are to viewed as performing military service. They, together with the members of their families, are to enjoy all the rights and benefits stipulated in the law. This also applies to servicemen who have been called up into the Armed Forces.

Article 10. The length of military service for all troops in the Armed Forces and for all categories of conscripts is to be 18 months.

Article 11. The call-up of young men for military service is to be carried out twice a year—in spring and in the fall.

Article 12. If necessary, women can also be called up for military service.

Footnote: In the case of citizens refusing to perform compulsory military service on grounds of freedom of conscience and religion, they can be called up for nonmilitary alternative service in accordance with the Republic of Georgia law of 14 June 1991. The term of alternative service is to be 24 months.

Chapter III

The Training of Young Men for Service in the Armed Forces

Article 13. The training of specialists for the Armed Forces from young men of call-up age is to be conducted:

a) in institutions of military vocational orientation and training belonging to the Ministry of Defense;

b) in sports and technical schools and clubs.

Article 14. To organize the training and call-up of young men for service in the Armed Forces, the territory of the Republic of Georgia is to be subdivided into rayon (town) conscription registration districts.

Article 15. By a resolution of the Republic of Georgia Government, the registration of young men who have reached the age of 17 during the year of their registration will take place between January and March each year in conscription registration districts.

Article 16. The registration of young men in conscription registration districts is to be conducted by rayon (town) boards of the military department. The boards are to be headed by the chief of the military department.

Medical specialists designated by the public health bodies are to conduct medical examinations of registered conscripts. If a medical specialist does not turn up in any conscription registration district, the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Public Health and Social Security is obliged, on the demand of the Ministry of Defense, to temporarily dispatch an appropriate medical specialist and to pay his expenses and retain his permanent position and salary.

Additional medical examinations to establish if a registered conscript is fit for military service are to be conducted in public health institutions free of charge.

The gamgeobas [local administrative boards] of towns and villages (settlements), gamgebelis [local administrative board chiefs], housing departments, private apartment owners, establishments, enterprises, and institutions belonging to the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Education are to be entrusted with the registration of reservists and conscripts. Before 1 December each year, they are to present a list of young men eligible for registration to the conscription registration district of the rayon (town) military department.

Article 17. Young men who are eligible for registration in the conscription registration district are obliged to report to the military department at a fixed time. This will be specified in the order of the chief of the military department and in personal call- up papers.

Young men undergoing registration in a conscription registration district are to be called conscripts.

Chapter IV

The Call-Up of Young Men Into the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces

Article 18. The call-up of young men for compulsory military service is to be conducted on the basis of an order from the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense in accordance with Republic of Georgia legislation.

The number of conscripts is to be determined by the Republic of Georgia State Council.

The dates when citizens are to report to conscription registration districts are to be fixed by the chiefs of rayon (town) military departments.

Article 19. Following publication of the resolution and order on the call-up for compulsory military service, each conscript is obliged to report to the conscription registration district on the date specified in the personal call-up papers that he will receive.

Conscripts who have left their place of residence are obliged to report immediately to the conscription registration district at which they are registered.

The heads of organizations, enterprises, and establishments are obliged to assist conscripts to report to conscription registration districts.

Article 20. It is compulsory to report to the conscription registration district.

The ill health of a conscript, natural disasters, and so forth, provided they have been proved by an appropriate document, may serve as valid reasons for his failure to report.

Article 21. Town and rayon boards are to be set up locally to conduct the call-up for compulsory military service.

The board is to be composed of the chairman of the conscription board—the chief of the rayon (town) military department;

members of the conscription board—representatives of rayon (town) gamgeobas and the departments of public health and social security, education, and internal affairs and the military department.

Medical boards are to be created alongside the conscription boards.

The medical boards are to be composed of a dermatologist, therapeutist, neuropathologist, psychiatrist, otolaryngologist, opthalmologist, dentist, and surgeon.

In accordance with a decision of the conscription boards, sick conscripts are to be granted a deferment of their call-up from one to three years.

The chairman and members of the conscription board are responsible for the legality of the decisions implemented.

Article 22. To control the leadership of the rayon and town conscription boards and their activities, the Republic of Georgia Government is to set up a republican conscription board.

The republican conscription board is to be composed of:

the chairman of the board—the chief of the administration of the Republic of Georgia local military organs;

the members of the board—representatives of the Republic of Georgia Government, the ministries of public health and social security, education, and internal affairs, and the republic's Procurator's Office.

Rayon and town conscription medical boards are to be directed and controlled by the republican medical board.

Article 23. In accordance with the corresponding plan, conscripts recognized as fit for military service are to be dispatched to military units (by ship) to carry out their military service. They are to be issued with military service cards.

Article 24. Local administrative bodies of the Republic of Georgia are entrusted:

a) during the call-up period, to allocate premises, appropriate equipment, transport, and medical specialists to carry out medical examinations to military departments so that they can conduct the registration and call-up;

b) to assist citizens to report on time for registration and call-up.

Article 25. Doctors, who are members of the conscription board and who are participating in the registration and in the work of the conscription boards, are to retain their salary at their principal place of work while those despatched to other regions are to be reimbursed for all their expenses.

Chapter V

Deferment of Call-Up for Compulsory Military Service

Article 26. The following are not eligible for call-up for compulsory military service due to their family circumstances: a) the only son and breadwinner of disabled parents or a widowed mother; b) the eldest brother and breadwinner of orphaned brothers and sisters; c) the sole grandson who is caring for disabled grandparents; d) a conscript who has a wife and children; e) an only son.

Deferment on family grounds is granted to conscripts up to the age of 25, provided they have not lost the right to this privilege before they reach this age. In peacetime, they are not obliged to be called up for compulsory military service and are to be enlisted in the reserve.

Article 27. Deferment of call-up for compulsory military service is granted for reasons of study to the following:

a) day students at institutes of higher education who are not undergoing military training but who are no older than 23;

b) day students at institutes of higher education who are undergoing military training—until they have completed their studies;

On completion of their studies, their call-up is to be conducted in accordance with point "b" of Article 40 of these regulations;

c) students in secondary and specialized secondary education institutions—until they have completed their studies but no later than the age of 20.

Chapter VI

Discharge From the Armed Forces on Completion of Compulsory Military Service

Article 28. On expiry of the period of military service stipulated in the provisional regulations, servicemen are to be discharged from service in the Armed Forces.

They are to be discharged on the order of the commander of the military unit on the basis of the resolution of the Republic of Georgia Government and Ministry of Defense.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense and the Main Administration of the Internal Troops are given the right to accept for extended service in the Armed Forces servicemen and reservists who are eligible for discharge. The rules according to which they are to perform out extended service are to be determined by the Republic of Georgia Government.

Article 29. Servicemen performing compulsory military service may be discharged from the Armed Forces early if the military medical board declares them to be unfit for military service.

If the family circumstances of a serviceman change while he is performing his military service and these circumstances conform to Article 25 of the provisional regulations, he may be discharged from the Armed Forces at his own request. He is to be discharged on the order of the chief of the Main Staff of the Republic of Georgia Armed Forces.

Article 30. The heads of the local administrative bodies are obliged to try to find jobs for persons discharged from the Armed Forces that, in the first instance, correspond with their profession. Those persons that were students prior to call-up for military service are to return to the educational institutions and to the course of study from which they were called up.

Article 31. Persons discharged from military service are to be registered at the military department in their place of residence. Their period of military service is to be included in their record of labor service.

Article 32. Men up to the age of 45 and women up to the age of 35 may serve in the reserve as privates (sailors), sergeants, and ranking NCO's (warrant officers).

Article 33. The reserve of the Armed Forces is to be divided into a first and second category.

The reserve's first category is to be made up of those persons who have performed one year's military service and also those who have taken part in combat actions irrespective of their length of service.

The following persons are to be registered in the reserve's second category:

a) those who have performed less than one year's military service;

b) all those who, for a certain reason, have not done their compulsory military service;

c) women registered for military service.

Article 34. The reserve is to be divided into three categories according to age:

first category—up to 30;

second category—up to 40;

third category—up to 45.

If necessary, reservists are to undergo active duty training periods.

Article 34. The reserve is to be divided into three categories according to age:

first category—up to 30;

second category—up to 40;

third category—up to 45.

If necessary, reservists are to undergo active duty training periods.

Chapter VII

On Military Service for Officers

Article 35. The rules according to which officer personnel perform military service are to be determined by the Republic of Georgia Government.

Officers perform military service and are in the ranks of the Armed Forces up to the following age-limits:

Military rank for all types of troops (excluding the Navy)	Navy	Age Limit			
		Regular Personnel	Reserve		
			1st category	2nd category	3rd category
1. lieutenant, senior lieutenant, captain	lieutenant, senior lieutenant, captain-lieutenant	40	40	45	50
2. senior captain, major captain	3rd rank, captain 2nd rank	50	50	55	55
3. colonel	captain 1st rank	55	55	60	60
4. brigade general, division general	rear-admiral, vice-admiral	60	60	65	65
5. corps general, army general	admiral	65	65		

Article 36. A regular officer who has reached the maximum age limit is eligible for discharge from military service. If necessary, some of them may, on an order from the Ministry of Defense, remain as part of the regular personnel for five years. In an emergency situation, this period can be extended for a further five years.

Article 37. An officer may be discharged from military service before he has reached the maximum age limit for the following reasons:

a) ill-health;

b) the inability to perform work duties;

c) a reduction in strength levels;

d) a court sentence received for a stipulated crime;

e) an action degrading the dignity of an officer.

Article 38. The reserve officer personnel is to be made up of:

a) generals (admirals) and officers discharged from the regular personnel of the Armed Forces;

b) the officer reserve that has completed a course of study at military departments in higher and secondary specialized educational institutions.

Article 39. If necessary, reserve officer personnel are to receive academic instruction.

Article 40. In peacetime, if necessary, officers in the reserve may be called up to serve as officers in the Armed Forces. The call-up may proceed as follows:

a) voluntarily by a government resolution;

b) officers in the reserve aged up to 30—for 24 months (in bringing up to full strength the republic's Armed Forces, officers in the reserve with the following uncommon specializations are to be eligible for call-up: signalmen, tank crewmen, artillerymen, sappers, vehicle mechanics [avtomobilisty], and the commanders of APC and combat vehicle platoons of infantry troops who obtained their military specializations at military departments in higher educational institutes and who have not performed military service).

Article 41. Officers in the reserve who have reached the maximum age limit or who are unfit for military service are to be removed from the military service registration list and are to bear the titles of retired officers and generals (admirals).

Chapter VIII

The Rights, Duties, and Responsibilities of Servicemen and Reservists

Article 42. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints are to enjoy all the rights defined in the Georgian Constitution.

The rights and duties of servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints are defined in the military regulations.

Article 43. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active duty training stints are to receive state allowances.

Chapter VIII

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Article 44. To regulate military registration, citizens are to be discharged from service for a necessary period of time and are to retain their full salary.

If a citizen summoned for an active duty training period falls ill during the training and his illness continues after it is over, he will receive a salary from the state as a temporarily disabled person in accordance with legislation.

Conscripts and reservists are to undergo a medical examination and tests free of charge to establish if they are fit for military service. Travel expenses, if incurred for leaving the rayon, are to be reimbursed by the state.

Article 45. Regular officers and those performing extended service and the aforementioned who are in retirement are to pay 50 percent of their rent and costs for local public utilities while the remaining 50 percent is to be paid by the state.

Article 46. The postal service in respect of parcels and letters sent by conscripts is free of charge. Postal charges are to be paid by the Ministry of Defense.

Article 47. Servicemen who become invalids during their military service are to be granted a state pension. After they have completed their military service, officers are to be granted a permanent state pension taking into account their years of service.

Article 48. During their period of active military service, servicemen are forbidden:

a) from becoming members of political parties;

b) from participating in political actions directed against the Government;

c) from holding several posts.

Article 49. Servicemen and reservists summoned for active training periods are to be made accountable for violating military discipline and social order in accordance with the disciplinary code of the Armed Forces and for committing a crime in accordance with existing legislation.

Chapter IX.

Military Registration

Article 50. The military registration of conscripts and reservists is to be carried out at their place of residence according to rules established by the Ministry of Defense.

Article 51. The registration of citizens of the Republic of Georgia living abroad is to be carried out at embassies and consulates of the Republic of Georgia. They are obliged, in the event of a call-up, to ensure that persons eligible for call-up report to the military department at their permanent place of residence.

Article 52. In the event of their changing their place of residence, conscripts and reservists are obliged within one month to personally report to the military departments to deregister and reregister.

Article 53. Conscripts and reservists are obliged to inform the military department of any changes in their family circumstances, a deterioration in their health, a change of address, and so forth.

Article 54. In the event of conscripts and reservists violating the rules of military registration, failing to report without a valid reason and deliberately damaging military documents, they are to be fined 100 rubles [R] by the military department and R1,000 if the offense is repeated.

Article 55. On the demand of the military department, the heads of local administrative bodies, enterprises and establishments, educational institutes, and other organizations are obliged to give notification of the call-up of conscripts and reservists.

Article 56. The heads of local administrative bodies, housing management districts, enterprises, establishments, and organizations are entrusted with carrying out military registration and periodically comparing their data with that of the military department.

Article 57. Labor commissions and boards of medical experts are entrusted with informing the military departments via the social security organs of those conscripts and reservists who have become invalids.

Article 58. Sections of the civil registrar's office are obliged to inform the military departments if conscripts and reservists have changed their surname, first name, or patronymic, their date of birth, and status and also if they have died.

Article 59. Investigative bodies should inform the appropriate military departments within five days of the initiation of criminal proceedings against conscripts and courts should inform them of sentences imposed on conscripts.

Article 60. Offices of local internal affairs are entrusted with:

a) registering and deregistering conscripts and reservists at their place of residence on the basis of the military registration documents;

b) helping local military departments with the call-up of citizens for compulsory military service;

c) conducting an investigation of those persons who refuse to perform compulsory military service.

Chapter X.

Mobilization Call-Up in an Emergency

Article 61.

Mobilization is to be announced by the highest organ of state power of the Republic of Georgia.

Mobilization call-up and subsequent call-ups during wartime are to be implemented by a decision of the highest organ of state power of the Republic of Georgia and by a resolution of the republic's government.

Article 62. In the event of the announcement of mobilization:

a) it is forbidden to change and leave one's permanent place of residence without the consent of the military department;

b) until a special order is given, the discharge of all servicemen from the Armed Forces is to be halted;

c) immediately after the announcement of mobilization, reservists are obliged at a specified time to quickly report to the military department at their place of residence.

Article 63. Those conscripts and reservists who refuse to be mobilized are to bear responsibility in accordance with existing legislation. Ratified by Resolution No. 78 of the Republic of Georgia State Council in Tbilisi on 2 July.

Estonia

Ministry Accuses Russia of Border 'Disrespect'

LD2008151192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ETA-TASS]

[Text] Tallinn August 19 TASS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Russian Foreign Ministry saying that Russian non-recognition of the lawful Russian-Estonian state border is a "disrespect of the Estonian territorial integrity and advancing of territorial claims".

The note is an answer to the Russian Foreign Ministry which had earlier stated that the Estonian Constitution which defines the land borders of the republic on the basis of the Tartu peace treaty is a one-sided legislative act which is "completely ungrounded both in its historical and legal aspects".

The Estonian Foreign Ministry replied that the 1920 peace treaty was signed by representatives of Estonia and Russia. No other treaty on the state border between the two countries was signed.

"While Russia recognises other international agreements signed by it in the beginning of the 20s, it makes an exclusion for the Tartu peace treaty. Such a selective approach contradicts international law and is unacceptable for the Estonian side", according to the note.

The Estonian Constitution was adopted at a referendum and its amendment "... is not in competence of any foreign state", the document stressed.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry views Russian statements as "a rude interference into the internal affairs of Estonia" and sees no possibility of discussing issues related to the Estonian Constitution.

Congratulations Exchanged With Russia

LD2008161692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Russia and Estonia have exchanged congratulations. The permanent representation of Russia today sent a telegram to the Estonian Government in which it congratulates the Estonian people on the first anniversary of the restored state independence.

According to information from the Estonian Government's press service, in a reply telegram Prime Minister Tiit Vähi congratulated the people of Russia on the occasion of a historical day also for them. Tiit Vähi affirmed that the relations between Estonia and Russia will develop in the future in the interests of both sides.

'Discriminatory Decisions' Against Troops Protested

PM2008095792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 92 p 3

["Direct Line" report by retired Colonel Vasiliy Belyakov: "'Prohibit, Do Not Allow'—That's the Long and the Short of It"]

[Text] Northwestern Group of Forces—A letter from Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces, to the leadership of the Republic of Estonia contains an appeal not to permit one-sided actions and discriminatory decisions in respect to Russian troops, pending the adoption of a corresponding intergovernmental accord, which was the subject of discussion at the recent meeting of foreign ministers from Baltic countries and Russia.

There are more than enough grounds for this. Certain decisions adopted recently by the Estonian Government are aimed at creating artificial difficulties for the contingent of Russian troops temporarily stationed on the republic's territory. They include, for example, the resolution restricting the movement of military convoys and warships, which can henceforth take place only with the sanction of the Estonian Defense Ministry or its local organs. Firing and bombing practices at test ranges are banned, as are patrols in population centers where Russian troops are stationed. Servicemen's city leave without an accompanying officer and corresponding permission from the local self-government body is not allowed.

Minister Notes Shift in Exports, Imports

LD2008150392 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1129 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] A positive shift has taken place in the structure of Estonian export [as heard], said the Estonian deputy minister of industry and energy, Riivo Sinijärv, at a briefing yesterday.

Mr. Sinijärv said that the volume of Estonian export has steadily grown and amounted to 348.2 [as heard] kroons in June. The volume of import has stabilized on the same level. One can assume that by the end of the year our export volume reaches five billion kroons. It would mean that Estonian trade balance can be stabilized by reasonable economizing, said Mr. Sinijärv.

The structure of export was as follows: Food products 18.9 percent; Textiles 10.3 percent; Chemical products 6.2 percent; Timber and timber products 5.0 percent; Metals and other goods 54.6 percent.

Against the first quarter of the year 1992 Russia's share in Estonian export has fallen from 22 to 13 percent. Finland's share has risen from 14 to 34 percent; and Holland's from 4.7 to 49 percent.

Of the import of June, 35.1 percent came from Finland. In June 38.3 percent of import was made up by fuel.

Mr. Sinijarv said that Estonian customs statistics is [as heard] inadequate yet and therefore the actual export-import balance can be even better. Mr. Sinijarv was optimistic about the future of Estonian economy, speaking about the possible [word indistinct] of Estonian kroon and the fall of credit percentage in the nearest future.

4 Registered as Candidates for President

LD2108081192 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Excerpt] After a thorough examination of the supporting signatures at the Republican Election Commission, at today's session of the commission, Lennart Meri, Arnold Ruutel, Lagle Parek, and Rein Taagepera were registered as candidates for the republic's president. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Officials Discuss Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2008222592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2046 GMT 20 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuzhina]

[Text] Riga August 21 TASS—Head of the Latvian parliament Anatolijs Gorbunovs and General Leonid Mayorov, commander-in-chief of the North-Western Group of Forces, had a meeting on Thursday [20 August]. In the opinion of both sides, the meeting will make inter-state negotiations about the Russian troop withdrawal more specific. [BNS] [TASS in English at 1832 GMT on 20 August in a similar report adds: "A spokesman for the Latvian parliament told Baltfax that Col. Gen. Leonid Mayorov emphasized he would do everything possible to withdraw troops from the Baltic countries as soon as he received an order to do that."] The general promised to help tighten discipline in Army units and promote the observance of laws of the states where Army units are stationed.

Mayorov called the attention of the parliamentary speaker to the fact that a number of social problems had aggravated of late. In August there were difficulties for retired military drawing pensions in Latvian roubles and the payment of salaries to the military in Latvian roubles. This resulted from lack of coordination between the actions of the Latvian and Russian banks. Gorbunovs noted that although the interests of the two sides do not always coincide as regards particulars, the two states are united in one thing, the need for the troop withdrawal. He noted that Latvia and Russia are still unable to reach agreement about the timeframe for the troop withdrawal. Gorbunovs pointed out that the higher military establishments situated in Latvia continue working, although an arrangement was reached at the negotiations that studies at these educational establishments should be stopped.

Bank Accounts With Ukraine Suspended

LD2008045792 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] The failure of Ukraine to settle its debt of 8.7 million rubles with the Bank of Latvia has provoked the suspension of Latvian-Ukrainian accounts.

The Central Ukrainian Bank is unwilling to sign a mutual accounting agreement with Latvia, feeling that if Ukraine introduces a national currency, the debt may remain unpaid.

Banks' Ruble Stabilization Measures Endorsed

LD2108082992 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] The Economics, Industry, and Combined Budget Commission of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia today accepted the measures taken by the Bank of Latvia to stabilize the Latvian ruble and protect the Latvian financial system. Members of the commission listened to a report by Bank of Latvia President Einars Repse, emphasizing that the noncash emissions by the separate states of the CIS have become a threat. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct dealings with these countries according to a floating exchange rate. Otherwise there will be a sharp increase in inflation, because it will be necessary for the Bank of Latvia to make additional emissions in order to convert the extremely large volumes of noncash payments from several CIS states into Latvian rubles on a one-for-one basis.

Einars Repse pointed out that in such a case, it is also possible to close noncash transactions with the Bank of Latvia from Russia, because several commercial structures could then use Latvia as a mediator for flooding Russia with worthless Ukrainian rubles, for example. Russia itself is said to have frozen operations with transferred Ukrainian rubles, and recommends this to its partners as well. The members of the Commission acknowledged that a more detailed analysis of the policy of the Bank of Latvia is necessary, as well as a more detailed exposition of the situation in the press, in which a superficial depiction of the problem frequently dominates.

Salaries To Be Paid in Latvian Currency Only

LD2008222792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis reports that from 1 September, only Latvian rubles can be used to pay salaries and other accounts. Starting in September, the provision of services and trading in foreign currencies must also be discontinued. Exchanges of foreign currencies to the Latvian ruble will be effected by the Bank of Latvia, which will thereby obtain the foreign currency necessary to control the Latvian ruble.

These are Ivars Godmanis's personal thoughts, but decisions to this effect must be taken by the monetary reform committee of the Republic of Latvia.

Local Bread Price Exceeds World Price

LD1908223192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0800 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Excerpt] As you already know, the bread price in Latvia at present already exceeds the world price. In some places it amounts to 40 rubles per kilogram of bread. Grain is purchased in Latvia on average for 23 rubles per kilogram, which exceeds the world market price. As Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis informed Supreme Council deputies, if electric power does not sharply increase, the government will recommend that the Latvian grain concern freeze bread prices. In the opposite case, the government will be forced to purchase grain abroad. [passage omitted]

Minister Reports on Fuel Shortages

OW2108144692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1423 GMT 21 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvia has come to grips with adverse situation with fuel supplies. This conclusion was made by the session of the Latvian parliamentary commission for architecture, transportation, and informatics on August 20 when it addressed the issues relating to fuel purchases in anticipation of the winter period.

In the words of Latvia's minister of energetics and industry, Gunars Kosmencs, the republic is facing most dramatic problems with diesel fuel supplies. Of the 800,000 tonnes needed for the winter, the country has purchased only 115,000 tonnes.

According to Mr Kosmencs, the republic is allocating US$13 Million for diesel fuel purchase from the credit provided by the IBRD and US$20 million proposed to Latvia by Saudi Arabia in terms of no-interest loan.

Enterprises To Provide Credits to Government

OW2108043092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1833 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A million-dollar-credit each provided to the Latvian government the merchant harbor, the harbor plant, and the "Ventspils Nafta" enterprise located in the city of Ventspils. The enterprises responded to the letter forwarded by Latvia's minister of agriculture, Dainis Gegers, to Ventspils' mayor in which he wrote about the impending agricultural crisis in the republic and bemoaned absence of resources for conducting a winter-crop planting campaign.

The resolution passed by the Latvian Council of Ministers provides for continuous agricultural production and saturation of the food market, as well as envisages attraction of resources from the republic's other state structures.

Premier Godmanis Leads Delegation to Yakutsk

OW1908191092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1340 GMT 19 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Latvian government delegation headed by the republic's premier Ivars Godmanis arrived in Yakutsk, capital of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Wednesday [19 August].

This visit crowns several rounds of talks in Riga, Moscow and Yakutsk conducted by the government delegations for the purpose of signing an economic agreement, as well as a number of agreements on mutual supplies. The Latvian government delegations, headed by Premier Ivars Godmanis and Yakut president Mikhail Nikolayev, are planning to sign in the evening of August 20.

The Latvian delegation's visit was preceded by a two-hour-long "sitting" of the Latvian delegation in Nizhnevartovsk airport (Tyumen region) where the plane landed for refueling.

A spokesman for the "Yakutavia" concern explained to Interfax that the departure from Nizhnevartovsk was delayed due to the consequences of the strike staged by the air traffic controllers on August 15. Presently, the city airport is congested with passengers, the air traffic service being unable to provide the departure of a great number of the delayed flights.

On the way back, the Latvian delegation members, including Latvia's minister of mass transit, Andris Gutmanis, will visit Tyumen where they will meet with the city administration heads in order to address the issue of supplying 300,000 tonnes of oil to Latvia's ministry of mass transit.

Government Passes, Executes Death Sentences

OW2108041192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1832 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Five death sentences have been passed in Latvia in the recent 12 months. Two of them have already been executed, said chairman of Latvia's Supreme Court, Gvido Zemribo, in an interview for the republic's daily Diena.

In his words, the republics has adopted death sentence for especially grave crimes, such as premeditated murder of forcible rape under aggravating circumstances, armed robbery, and some of the crimes, including manufacture of counterfeit money and securities under aggravating circumstances.

Government Blamed for Metal Export Problems

OW2108043492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1833 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Latvian government is to blame for the continuous export of non-ferrous metals from the republic, for it fails to pursue a consistent policy in this regard," Latvia's criminal police chief Mr Liepins told a BALTFAX correspondent.

In his words, government officials constantly grant legal permissions to export non-ferrous metals, whereas 1.5 tonne of metals obtained as a result of illegal activities inside Latvia "stick" to nearly each tonne of these metals procured legally.

Lithuania

Katkus Reinstated as 1st Deputy Foreign Minister

OW1508184892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1508 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Valdemaras Katkus, 34, has been reinstated as Lithuania's first deputy foreign minister.

He had occupied this post before he was removed from it without any serious reason three months ago by Gediminas Vagnorius who was Lithuania's prime minister, after which the presidium of the Lithuanian parliament appointed Katkus special envoy to the Helsinki summit.

Valdemaras Katkus has the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania.

Deputy Prime Minister Holds News Conference

Notes Economic Prospects, Prices

LD2108094192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys by unidentified announcer after Lubys' news conference on the economy and the crop situation at Government House on 20 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] (Are we going) to live in warmth, with bread?

[Lubys] I think we will, but it will be expensive. The problem today is not over oil supplies to the Mazeikiai oil refinery or gas supplies, but rather, the price. If we reach an agreement on the price, Russia will resume supplies. The issue of gas is being discussed. We are being threatened with the gas supply being halted altogether, but this too is a question of price. If we resolve the price issue, oil, oil products, and gas will be supplied to Lithuania. However, this is a commercial issue. We must defend the interests of our people, the interests of enterprises, and those of every resident in Lithuania.

[Announcer] You promised unpopular solutions. One of them is the decision to increase wages to officials in budget organizations.

[Lubys] I think that those who will receive the increase will regard it as a popular measure. Among the unpopular measures will be the increase in prices for all energy sources, including heating, gas, and electricity. We intend to provisionally increase prices by approximately five times as compared with today's prices. However, this will be decided by the cabinet; it is only a project submitted by the Power Engineering Ministry.

[Announcer] What draft laws are you working on at present?

[Lubys] The main issue is a draft law on bankruptcy. We will ask the Supreme Council to pass it. The second issue is the expansion of the privatization law. [passage omitted]

Briefs on Crops

LD2108091392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Text] Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys met with journalists on 20 August. Speaking about the supply of energy resources, the deputy prime minister noted that this issue was being resolved with difficulties because of the price dictate by suppliers, above all Russia. Suppliers are demanding that the oil and gas be paid for at world prices, or even higher.

The yield of grain crops in Lithuania, according to statistical summaries, is 28.5 quintals per hectare. We are going to have somewhat more grain than expected, but it will not be sufficient for all requirements. The government has been able to allocate 6 billion rubles of interest-free credit for the purchase of grain and other food products. There are opportunities to obtain them in exchange for industrial goods on the eastern market, and support from Western countries is expected. Thus, although not all our requirements will be satisfied, we will have enough bread.

Speaking of other pressing problems facing the government, the deputy prime minister said that a draft law on the bankruptcy of enterprises was being prepared. Privatization regulations will be corrected to encourage improvements in production, employment, and other social issues.

Journalists were also informed about the government's efforts to bar financial protectionism, to regulate the work of commercial banks using state capital, to direct the so-called black market into the civilized market, and to implement means to stop inflation so that the litas is stronger.

The present government is working in agreement and is trying to direct economic reform onto a good path, stressed the deputy prime minister. At the same time, he made it clear that it is time for everyone to earn according to his or her abilities.

Eastern Market 'Primary Objective'

OW2108023892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1831 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Lithuania's main market lies in the East," says Bronislovas Lubys, deputy head of the Lithuanian government. In his appearance before the journalists Thursday he characterized as "amateurish and propagandist" the statements by some of the Lithuanian leaders aspiring to re-orientate the Lithuanian export to the West. Lithuania's primary objective is to preserve the eastern market, and only then can we venture conquering the West, the vice premier emphasized.

Mr Lubys said that Lithuania's export of industrial production to the countries other than former Soviet republics in June comprised merely 9.4 percent of the Lithuanian gross export.

In the meantime, in the words of the vice premier, the level of the republic's industrial production continued to decline. Last year, it dropped by 27 percent, whereas in the first six months of this year it plummeted by 42 percent.

Polish Union Remains Legal Entity

OW2108044092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1833 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian ministry of justice refused to call off the registration of the republic's Polish Union in defiance to the request to annul this social organization submitted to it by the office of the republic's procurator general. Following the investigation of its activities, the office charged the Union with plotting to sever the Vilnius region from Lithuania, claiming that the organization was pursuing an anti-state policy.

Lithuania's acting minister of justice, Zenonas Jutkevicius, told BALTFAX that he had no proofs of the Polish Union's unconstitutional activities. He maintains that he only knows of separate cases when Lithuanian legislation was violated by individuals belonging to the Union.

Russian Proposal for Economic Talks Accepted

LD2008144692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1507 GMT 19 Aug 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius August 19 TASS—The Lithuanian Government has accepted Russian Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar's proposal to hold bilateral talks in order to settle economic and financial problems between the two countries and to promote economic cooperation in 1993.

According to a statement issued by the Lithuanian Government's press bureau and published here today, the telegram to the Russian Government, signed by Vice-Chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers Bronislavas Lubis, says that the "Lithuanian Government expresses its satisfaction with the resolution of the Russian Federation to start such talks of great importance for both states. It agrees to hold the first meeting of working teams from the two countries in Moscow on August 28, 1992".

Landsbergis Greets Yeltsin on Victory Anniversary

OW2008144392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1328 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, Vytautas Landsbergis, has forwarded a telegram to President Boris Yeltsin.

"In marking the first anniversary of the hard testing when our nations, in solidarity, safeguarded democracy and opportunities for continuing their civilized development", the telegram reads, "may I extend my congratulations to you and the Russian people who displayed commendable forbearance then and in the aftermath. I am convinced that our relations will always be developing in the spirit of mutual understanding and goodwill".

Wages To Be Increased at Budget Institutions

LD2008174192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 20 Aug 92

[Excerpts] From 1 August [as heard] the wages of officials at the budget offices and organizations are to be increased by 24 percent. This can also be done by other profit-seeking enterprises, bearing in mind the funds in their possession.

ELTA yesterday published a report on the government meeting which intends to increase payments to people who must be socially supported. [passage omitted] This concerns retirees whose pensions will be increased. This increase amounts to only 5 percent. [passage omitted]

A new minimum living standard has been defined. [passage omitted] In accordance with the prices on 1 July, the minimum living standard amounts to 1,600 rubles. [passage omitted] The minimum monthly wage will be 1,700 rubles.